



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Condemns U.S. War Against Arab Nation

LD0502200191 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] We have now received the statement of the brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, after his meeting a short time ago in Algiers, with President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian Republic, in which he said:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] Without a doubt there is national and pan-Arab apprehension about what is happening by way of the imperialist U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against sister Iraq. Good and benevolent efforts are being made by brother President Chadli together with his brothers here, the Algerian officials and the Algerian people, in support of their brothers among the Iraqi people, along with efforts currently being made through the Security Council, the Maghreb initiative, or at the Nonaligned, Islamic, African, or European levels. It is important to continue the efforts in that direction in uniting these efforts, so that we can stop this destructive war—which is not just an attempt, as they say, to liberate this or that Arab country. Regrettably, it is a new crusader war with its ugly face, not aimed just against Iraq, but against the Arab nation as a whole.

We have thanked the president for the efforts made by Algeria and by him personally, on all these levels—at the United Nations in Europe, with the Soviet Union and China, with the Arab and Islamic countries, Nonaligned countries, and African countries. This is a blessed move, God willing, which we hope will bear fruit.

At the same time, we informed the president about the difficult times the Palestinian people are going through, about the blessed intifadah which faces a new tyranny embodied in the curfew imposed for the 19th day today, and about the real famine which that means, which the Palestinian people are being subjected to, in addition to the criminal acts that are occurring, such as killing, blowing up, destruction, and aggression against Islamic and Christian holy places in our occupied land.

Finally, there are the air and sea raids and the land bombardment that has been going on for the seventh or eighth day running in southern Lebanon against Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps in the South. The latest of these actions happened today, when twenty Israeli aircraft, as is known, together with Israeli warships, bombarded the Sidon region and east Sidon, which resulted in great destruction of houses, in Lebanese villages and in the Palestinian camps, and caused more than 50 casualties—whether martyred or injured. It is an Israeli policy to open a second front in the Lebanese South against the Arab nation, the Palestinians, and the Lebanese.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, how do you conceive of solving the Gulf crisis, when the United States

rejects every political initiative, and accepts only the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait? Another question: What is your visualization of the post-Gulf war Arab geopolitical map?

['Arafat] No. We have to understand that the new order that Baker is talking about is a new Sykes-Picot Treaty to divide the Arab nation, and here I wonder: How can they end the cold war last year in Paris, and then come to wage a crazy, destructive war against the Arab nation and against the peoples of the Middle East and the Islamic nation? How can that be? There is a new map being drawn by the United States, being drawn by the Pentagon, to enslave this Arab and Islamic nation and the peoples of the Middle East. [end recording]

'Arafat Accuses Israel of Opening 'New Front'

NC0602070891 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
0615 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has denied reports that the PLO gave orders to stop military operations against Israel from south Lebanon, saying this is the PLO's right. Following a meeting with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, 'Arafat accused Israel of trying to open a new front against the Arab nation in south Lebanon by launching air raids against this region.

Hawatimah Views Arab-European Efforts for Peace

NC0502190691 *Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic*
1730 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] In an interview with our radio today, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], said he believes that there is real hope for a practical formula to stop the war and enter a stage of resolution. He disclosed to us details of contacts in which he personally participated recently and their possible outcome. Let us hear what he had to say:

[Begin Hawatimah recording] We firmly believe that the opportunities for peace still exist, and there is still ample room for such opportunities. We firmly believe that matters should not necessarily proceed as the United States would like. President Bush stated yesterday that the war will not stop until he gets what he wants. What he wants is clear: the destruction of Iraq. Therefore, various Arab efforts are under way in cooperation with Europe, particularly France, Italy, and the FRG, and with the Soviet Union, the PRC, and Japan. I personally held intensive contacts with a large number of Arab heads of state. A few days ago, I was in Tunisia, and before that I visited Libya, Sanaa, and Algeria. I am again visiting Algiers and talking to you from there. I also held contacts with Soviet and PRC leaders. I also held contacts with French, FRG, and Italian officials. All my contacts focused on formulating a new balanced political Palestinian-Arab-European-Soviet-PRC initiative to submit to the Security Council so it can pass a new resolution. This resolution should:

1. stop the war,
2. call on all parties to return to the negotiations table, and
3. call for negotiations within the context of an international conference for security and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and the Gulf region to be attended by all parties to the regional conflict, as well as all countries with interests in the Middle East and the Gulf.

The goal is to achieve comprehensive security and peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. In my view, something new is being born right now. The Algerian-Yemeni-Iraqi-Iranian talks held in Tehran and the current Soviet-Iranian talks belong in this context. There are European, particularly French, FRG, and Italian moves toward this goal. All these steps seek to bring together Arab countries opposed to the war and a number of European countries, the Soviet Union, and the PRC in a new collective initiative for a new Security Council resolution to halt the war and convene an international conference for comprehensive security and peace in the Middle East and the Gulf to resolve all problems in the region on the basis of international legitimacy. [end recording]

Statement Condemns Israeli Human Rights Abuses

LD0502235691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source has issued the following statement:

For the 19th day running the Israeli Government is continuing its total curfew throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and for the 19th day running the UN Security Council, the UN secretary general, the major countries in the UN Security Council, and the permanent members of the UN Security Council are continuing the policy of ignoring and overlooking this crime. The Israeli Government's policy toward the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is one of clear terrorism. It clearly and flagrantly violates the Geneva Convention and the principles of human rights.

Our concern is to draw the attention of international public opinion to the following facts. First, the extreme lack of food supplies has begun to seriously affect the lives of the Palestinian citizens, especially children who even lack milk. The lack of food has also begun to affect the lives of tens of thousands of Palestinian in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Second, prohibiting the Palestinians from leaving their homes has led to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians losing their daily income and using up their simple savings, a matter which has deprived them of the possibility of obtaining food and medicine, if food and medicine were to be found.

Third, prohibiting all Palestinians from going to work has led to the destruction of agricultural crops, which has deprived the Palestinian people of its national agricultural revenue during the current season, a matter which will reflect itself negatively, now and in the future, on the social and economic conditions in the occupied territories.

Fourth, prohibiting the Palestinians from leaving their homes by force and exposing them to Israel soldiers' fire is an aggression against basic human freedoms. The declared reason for imposing the curfew testifies clearly to that. The Palestinian people's right to express its anti-Gulf war stance is one of its rights, in the same way that it is the right of the Americans opposed to the war in the Gulf.

For public opinion throughout the entire world, which is beginning to see things in their true colors, for the Palestinian people to be punished for this attitude, constitutes a new crime of annihilation which is the responsibility not of Israel alone, but also of the United States, the United Nations, and the UN Security Council. The international community should not close its eyes on this destructive war which is being silently waged by Israel. We are asking the EEC and the UN Security Council to act swiftly to put an end to what is now happening and to protect the Palestinian people from the slaughters planned against it. Our people who are surrounded and detained collectively, will rebel against the barbarous Israeli terrorism and will rise up against oppression and injustice whatever the practices of the Israeli enemy.

Algeria

Iranian Envoy, Assembly Chairman Discuss Peace Plan

LD0502114191 Algiers APS in English 1017 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Algiers, 5 Feb (APS)—Chairman of the People's National Assembly (APN), Abdelaziz Belkhadem received here yesterday the Iranian ambassador to Algiers, Javed Qorbanoghlu, both officials hailed the good relationships existing between the two countries and which are characterized by a close cooperation between their parliaments. The ambassador of Iran underlined that the head of the Iranian Parliament, Mehdi Karrubi granted a particular interest to the message which he received from his Algerian counterpart following the U.S. and its allies aggression against the brotherly Iraqi people. On this occasion Javed Qorbanoghlu set up the great lines of the peace plan proposed by the head of the Iranian Parliament, Mehdi Karrubi aiming at solving the Gulf crisis. This plan is in favour of an immediate cease fire, the urgent abrogation of the embargo set on food and pharmaceutical products toward Iraq, the simultaneous withdrawal of the foreign forces from the Gulf region and the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and their replacement by the forces of the Islamic countries.

This plan also calls for the constitution of a supervising committee emanating from the Islamic countries in order to solve the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis, the suspension of Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and the necessity to reinforce the support of the Islamic countries to the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Iran's Gulf Stance Praised

LD0502081591 Tehran IRNA in English 0646 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Algiers, Feb 5 (IRNA)—Speaker of Algeria's National Assembly Abdelaziz Belkhadem said here Monday that he supports his Iranian counterpart's peace initiative to end the Persian Gulf war and praised the Islamic Republic for its stance towards the war.

Belkhadem made the remark in a meeting here Monday with Iran's Ambassador to Algiers Javed Qorbanoghlu.

Iranian Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi proposed an independent five-point peace plan on January 27 stating that he will push it forward in cooperation with the world parliamentarians.

Belkhadem and the Iranian ambassador also discussed the Persian Gulf developments and efforts of Iran and Algeria to end the war.

Presently Iran enjoys a key position with regards to the Persian Gulf war, the Algerian official said.

Nonaligned Meeting on Gulf Reviewed

LD0302141991 Algiers APS in English 1122 GMT
3 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, 3 Feb (APS)—It is being confirmed in the Iranian capital that the on-going efforts for an end of the gulf war and the resumption of dialogue, are heading towards an initiative of the Non-Aligned Movement towards the UN Security Council.

The will is also being confirmed in Tehran to work in a way that all the future initiatives, of whatever nature and origin, will reinforce the unitary point of view of the movement and its approaches of means and why it is likely to make pressure on the Security Council so that it sticks to its original mission which is to preserve peace and not to deliver signed blank papers for war.

Moreover, it is expected that the Non-Aligned Movement will hold a meeting in Belgrade on February 12. The Algerian and Iranian foreign ministers insisted during their talks the importance of the role the movement should play.

The initiative of the non-aligned will be based on the demand of an immediate stopping of the (war) with the resumption of dialogue and the U.S.A. Algeria was the first country to launch this call which seems to have the support of Iraq. In fact it (Algeria) demanded from the beginning of the war the immediate end of hostilities and informed the UN secretary general and the Security Council that the latter has gone beyond its prerogatives.

The efforts of Algeria continued to raise, on one hand, a reaction that is contrary to the war logic which has been legalized and imposed by the Security Council and to unveil, on the other hand, the inertia of this instance and its incapacity to gather the conditions of dialogue since the beginning of the crisis. The call of Algeria found an echo in a number of influential countries and paved the way to a meeting between member countries of the movement and which are members of the Security Council.

Certain circles to voice reserves on the very meeting note that it could not find a common basis that could conciliate the position of participating countries [sentence as received]. No one ignores that among these countries, some took part in the anti-Iraqi coalition and others supported the Security Council's resolutions authorizing the recourse to a military solution to oblige Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. The quadripartite meeting held yesterday in Tehran between Sad Ahmed Ghazali, Algerian minister of foreign affairs; 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian minister of foreign affairs; Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi vice prime minister; and 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Duli, Yemeni secretary of state for foreign affairs, was aimed at intensifying efforts to lift the divergence of opinions in seeking a solution that could be born in Belgrade.

Official Discusses Peace With Perez de Cuellar*LD0202125691 Algiers APS in English 1035 GMT
2 Feb 91*

[Text] New York 2 Feb (APS)—Hocine Djoudi, general secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, held talks on Friday with Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, about the Gulf crisis and Palestinian question.

These talks allowed Hocine Djoudi to recall the principle position of Algeria about Kuwait's invasion and efforts exerted by President Chadli Bendjedid to seek an honorable and peaceful end to the crisis in respect of international legitimacy.

The secretary general also spoke about Algeria's extreme concern towards the actual tragedy lived by the Iraqi people wondering about the Security Council's passivity before the overtakings noticed in the application of UN Resolution 678 aimed at liberating Kuwait and not destroying Iraq.

In this regard, the Algerian official tackled at length the objectives of the Maghreb countries common initiative before the Security Council aimed at stopping hostilities and carrying on diplomatic efforts towards a peaceful solution of the conflict.

He voiced the hope of seeing such an organ preserving peace and international security, reacting and warning of war logic, [and] tackling the Palestinian question. Hocine Djoudi insisted on the UN responsibility to apply its resolutions to stop the suffering of Palestinian people since 40 years.

The Secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs seized the opportunity of his stay in New York to meet many representatives of members of the Security Council. Therefore, he successively held talks with representatives of India, Cuba, France, Yemen and the United States.

Egypt**Kuwaiti Minister Arrives With Message 5 Feb***NC0502215991 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 5 Feb 91*

[Text] Shaykh Nasir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo this evening. During his visit, he will deliver a message from the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to President Husni Mubarak. He will also hold talks with officials on developments in the Gulf.

Received by Mubarak*NC0602100091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT
6 Feb 91*

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Kuwaiti State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Nasir al-Ahmad al-Sabah in the presidential office this morning.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kan'ari.

The Kuwaiti minister arrived in Cairo from Tehran last evening, carrying a message to President Mubarak from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad.

Views Iranian Initiative, Iraqi Planes*NC0602114291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT
6 Feb 91*

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—Kuwaiti State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Nasir al-Ahmad al-Sabah has stated that he delivered a written message to President Mubarak from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on the long-standing relations linking the two countries. Shaykh Nasir made the statement following his meeting with President Mubarak today.

On the outcome of his talks in Iran and the substance of the recent Iranian initiative, Shaykh Nasir said: I have not been briefed on the Iranian initiative. However, he added, during my meeting with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday evening, he reiterated his country's neutral stand and stressed that since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August, Iran has emphasized the need to implement the UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq's full and unconditional withdrawal and on the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government.

Shaykh Nasir added that the Iranian president repeated that his country is committed to its announcement on 15 January that it will maintain its fully neutral position on the Gulf war and the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

On the usefulness of peace initiatives now that the war has entered its third week, Shaykh Nasir said: We in Kuwait will accept nothing less than the implementation of all the UN Security Council resolutions.

On the domestic situation in Kuwait he said: You are well aware of what the Iraqi regime is doing there. The fraternal Egyptian people know what is being committed by the Iraqi regime. He said that Kuwaiti resistance is constant.

He was asked about the Iraqi aircraft that took refuge in Iran and whether he had discussed that issue with the Iranian president. He replied that Iran has said officially that it will keep custody of all Iraqi aircraft and pilots.

Shaykh Nasir concluded by saying that Kuwait will never relinquish an inch of its territory, adding that all UN resolutions should be implemented.

Mubarak, U.K.'s Major Discuss War Via Telephone*NC0502170591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1633 GMT
5 Feb 91*

[Text] London, 5 Feb (MENA)—This morning British Prime Minister John Major held a 15-minute telephone conversation with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

British Cabinet sources told a MENA correspondent in London that the telephone conversation dealt with the latest developments in the Gulf region. During the conversation, John Major expressed his appreciation for the Egyptian position, which is unequivocally clear in its support for the international alliance.

These sources added that during the telephone conversation President Mubarak reiterated Egyptian public support for the international alliance and international legitimacy.

The sources went on to say that the British prime minister hailed Egypt's determination regarding the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

These sources termed the telephone conversation extremely cordial.

Mubarak Reviews Outcome of Ministers' U.S. Visit

NC0502214591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a meeting at the Presidential Palace this morning. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Dr. Mahmoud Salah Hamed, governor of the Central Bank; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, cabinet affairs minister and minister of state for administrative development; and Muhammad Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information.

Following the meeting, Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak discussed during the meeting the outcome of the visit by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd to the United States. He added that the president described the outcome of this visit as positive on both the political and economic levels and also regarding Egyptian-U.S. ties and mutual cooperation in light of the message President Mubarak sent to U.S. President George Bush. The information minister added: During the meeting, the report submitted by the foreign minister and the cabinet affairs minister on the meetings and talks held with the IMF was discussed. He explained that the results of these meetings and talks were positive. He added that there is an understanding between the IMF director and officials of the Egyptian policy regarding agricultural reform. He went on to say that positive steps were taken to free the national economy, to lend it positive momentum, and to bring about its stability in accordance with the Egyptian policy pursued in this regard.

The information minister said that the IMF officials have taken into account the economic circumstances which Egypt is experiencing nowadays due to the eruption of the war. He indicated that during the meeting Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid presented a timetable for the steps to be taken before a final agreement is signed. The report submitted by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on his visits to the United States, Canada, and Italy also explained the

international community's appreciation for the position Egypt's leadership and people have taken toward the just cause of the Kuwaiti people. The report also showed that officials in these countries are aware of the economic conditions and burdens Egypt is bearing to tackle the conditions created by the return of Egyptians from Kuwait and Iraq.

Furthermore, the president discussed a report on the policy being pursued by the Central Bank regarding the financing and enhancing of the free finance market's resources during the upcoming phase with a view to achieving stability and tackling negative phenomena such as the decline in market returns due to the decline in Egyptian expatriates' remittances and tourism revenues. President Mubarak also issued several instructions designed to secure the required amounts of hard currency to finance the basic requirements needed for sectors of production.

Foreign Minister Discusses War, Post-War Period

AU0502215791 Vienna ORF Television Network
in German 2007 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Interview with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali by Hans Benedict; place and date not given—recorded; interview in English with voice-over German translation]

[Text] [Benedict] Will there be a future Iraq with or without Husayn? This is a question concerning the alliance with the United States. President George Bush is not ready for a coexistence with Saddam Husayn. Bush wants to remove Saddam Husayn from power. This is his guideline for a solution to the conflict between Iraq and the United States.

[Ghali] This may be the position of the United States.

[Benedict] Bush repeatedly stated this in public.

[Ghali] Our policy is aimed at noninterference in the internal affairs of Iraq. We exclusively want to achieve Kuwait's liberation. By the way, we have always coexisted side by side with Iraq, despite our peace treaty with Israel, and despite the resolution adopted by the Arab summit in Baghdad to exclude us from the Arab League and to transfer the league's headquarters from Cairo to Tunis—that is despite Saddam Husayn's crusade against Egypt. Let me make one thing very clear: We are part of this region. We must coexist with the countries of this region. Our policy is and will continue to be aimed at noninterference.

[Benedict] What you are saying is clearly in contradiction with the U.S. view.

[Ghali] No, not at all. We are doing everything that the Western coalition demands from us, until Kuwait is liberated. However, after that point, a solution to the post-war problems of the region will have to be found. I

am convinced that these problems will be much bigger and more difficult than the pre-war period and the war.

[Benedict] In what respect?

[Ghali] This region will be similar to Europe after 1945. We will have to start a new process of inner-Arab relations. We are thinking of some kind of Marshall Plan, under which the United States helped rebuild Europe after World War II. We must rebuild Iraq and Kuwait. First we will have to remove many political contradictions. There will be numerous problems.

[Benedict] Is your government in favor of a peace plan that includes Iraq's disarmament? Do you agree with the theory that there can be no peace as long as Iraq retains its weapons capacity, particularly in the chemical and possibly also the nuclear sphere?

[Ghali] In any case, we are in favor of disarmament, but in the entire region. We have suggested this several times, six or seven years ago, as a basis of peace in the Middle East.

[Benedict] Let me repeat my question: Do you want Saddam Husayn to survive with his potential to produce chemical and nuclear weapons?

[Ghali] I do not like to answer speculative questions. Our current problem is the liberation of Kuwait. We must implement the UN resolutions. As soon as Kuwait is free, we must jointly work for peace, for the entire region. First of all, we must achieve peace between the Arab states, and then peace with Israel. One condition must be fulfilled before peace is possible: A solution to the Palestinian problem.

Egyptian Opposition Figures Arrested

NC0502155791 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
29 Jan 91 pp 1, 11

[By 'Ali al-Qamash]

[Text] It has been decided that AL-SHA'B chief editor 'Adil Husayn and editor Huda Mikkawi should appear before the high military court in al-'Abbasiyah on Wednesday, 6 February.

In another development, yesterday the state prosecutor subpoenaed Mr. Naji al-Shihabi, Labor Party Executive Committee member, for questioning about his party activity.

The state prosecution began interrogating Mr. al-Shihabi yesterday, saying that the Labor Party's rejection of war disturbs public order in the country. The prosecution considered the party's slogan of "No to War" a crime in accordance with Article 102 of the penal code.

In a serious development countering democratic practice, after Friday prayers the state security intelligence arrested Majdi Ahmad Husayn, assistant secretary general of the Labor Party and deputy chief editor of AL-SHA'B, for his

rejection of the U.S.-Western aggression against fraternal Iraq. Six youths affiliated with the Nasirite Party in Dimyat were also arrested for distributing leaflets condemning the aggression and calling for an end to this vicious imperialist onslaught on the nation.

The Labor Party issued a statement condemning the apprehension of Majdi Ahmad Husayn and warning against this grave escalation in the confrontation with the opposition. The statement appealed to the journalists association, political parties, trade unions, and all human rights organizations in Egypt and abroad to confront these undemocratic practices.

The state prosecution is imposing strict measures for visits to Majdi Ahmad Husayn, insisting that the public prosecutor personally should approve the visit and that the permit should be sent to Turrak Prison through administrative channels, which would mean several days of delay.

Majdi Husayn was arrested after Friday prayers at 'Umar-Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz Mosque in al-Sa'ad after a number of citizens had gathered around him asking about his and the party's position on the Gulf war, especially because he is a former deputy in the constituency.

In another development, security forces arrested five opposition youths on Tuesday, charging them with distributing a statement condemning the official position on the Gulf crisis and with preparing for a protest demonstration. Muhammad al-Rifa'i, Nasir Hashim, Ashraf Labib, Ashraf 'Abdallah, and Yahya Abd-al-'Aziz were taken to Abu-Za'bal prison.

In Dimyat, six Nasirite Party youths, including Fahmi Barakat, Executive Committee member and secretary of the governorate, were arrested on the same charges.

Military Talks Held With French Minister 5 Feb

NC0502215491 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] A session of military talks were held this evening between General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, and Pierre Jose, French defense minister, and his accompanying delegation who arrived in Cairo this evening. During the meeting, which lasted approximately one-and-one-half hours, the two sides discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region.

Gen. Abu-Talib said that the visit is intended to enable the two sides to become acquainted with one another and to exchange views on all aspects of the situation in view of the French minister's recent assumption of his post.

Asked about reports on the presence of missiles in Sudan and Yemen, Abu-Talib said that there is absolutely nothing to confirm the presence of any missiles in either Sudan or Yemen. He said: I do not believe that there is

any military or political consideration that would support a threat from either direction. In any event, Egypt is always prepared to confront any eventuality.

EC Grants \$240 Million To Offset War Effects

NC0502205491 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] An agreement was signed with the EC at the Ministry of International Cooperation today according to which Egypt will receive a grant of \$240 million to help it bear the negative effects of the Gulf war.

Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, said that this grant will be used urgently this year to finance the imports of commodities and capital requirements as well as the purchase of the spare parts needed by the public and private sectors. On the domestic scene, this grant will also be used to finance the projects which seek to develop communities and to create job opportunities for the Egyptians returning from Kuwait and Iraq. Dr. Makramallah added.

Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, signed the agreement for Egypt, and the EEC representative to Egypt signed for the EC.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Decrees Nine-State Federal System

AB0502212791 London BBC World Service
in English 1709 GMT 5 Feb 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Sudan's military ruler, General al-Bashir, is pressing ahead with his plans for the country. He has already revived Shar'ia law in the north, ignoring demands by the southern rebels of the SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] for its complete scrapping. Now Gen. al-Bashir has decreed a federal system of government. Whether the SPLA will accept that is doubtful, particularly, as they boycotted the conference at which the plan was drawn up. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report.

[Begin recording] The federal system would divide Sudan into nine states. State-run television said the ruling military council, headed by Lieutenant General Umar al-Bashir, has passed a decree for the creation of the states of Khartoum, Central, Kurdufan, Darfur, Northern, Eastern, Bahr al Ghazal, Upper Nile, and Equatoria. All these were previously regions except for Khartoum, which was a province.

The new state governments—consisting of a governor general, who heads the administration in the state, the deputy governor general, and a cabinet of three ministers—will be responsible for local administration, collection of some taxes, provision of water, transport, and other duties.

State television said that peace elements would be appointed to fill vacant posts in the south. The regions were previously headed by a military governor assisted by two civilian deputies. The new states are subdivided into 66 provinces and 218 local government areas. The television said the issuance of the federal unionist decree, creating the states, is in line with the recommendations of the national dialogue conference. The conference was held in Khartoum in August and September 1989, but it was boycotted by the rebel SPLA. Most southerners participated in the conference, even those who did not want a federal system of government for Sudan.

As part of his plan to devolve power to the states, al-Bashir also dissolved the Khartoum-based Council for the South, the nominal government for Southern Sudan. The Council for the South was the only institution that brought southerners together and made them feel as one. [end recording]

Reports on Iraqi Missiles Called 'Fabricated'

AB0502165291 Paris AFP in French 1608 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Feb (AFP)—Sudan today denied the installation of Iraqi missiles and military aircraft on its territory and described as "fabricated" press reports published on the issue. Quoted by the Sudanese agency SUNA, Mr. Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, minister of information and spokesman of the Sudanese Government, pointed out that he was not "surprised to hear such lies from foreign intelligence agents who infiltrated our country under the pretext of carrying out humanitarian missions."

The American ABC television said yesterday—quoting European and Sudanese military and diplomatic sources as well as officials of international humanitarian organizations operating in Sudan—that Iraq has installed surface-to-surface missiles and fighters at several locations in Sudan.

The minister accused representatives of these humanitarian organizations of aiming to "distort the internal and foreign policy of Sudan and other Arab and Islamic countries which have adopted independent stands vis-a-vis the Gulf war." He also warned foreign diplomats in Sudan and called on them to ensure that their reports were accurate and to verify their sources, whether these were Sudanese or humanitarian, because, he said, such reports could compromise "their diplomatic competence as well as the interests of their countries."

Trade Union Official on Support for Iraq

EA0502222791 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Feb (SUNA)—Mr. Taj al-Sirr Abidun, chairman of the Higher Council of Trade Unions, says that the number of trade union volunteers will soon reach 1,000 as the first batch of volunteers to support

Iraq. His excellency told "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" that a trade union delegation will leave the country for Baghdad following a meeting to be held by the International Confederation of Arab Trade Union Central Council, expected to be convened in Khartoum during the first half of February at the invitation of the Sudanese General Confederation of Trade Unions. The participants in the meetings will discuss the current situation in the Gulf and the support which will have to be provided in the form of food, [word indistinct], blood donations, enrollment in the ranks of those fighting U.S. imperialism and its allies, and action to be taken to halt the war.

Red Crescent President Condemns 'Ferocious' War

EA0402194691 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1429 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Feb (SUNA)—Dr. Ma'mun Yusuf Hamid, president of the Sudanese Red Crescent Society, has condemned the continuing and deliberate violation of human rights [words indistinct] of the imperialist-Zionist alliance in the ferocious war being waged against the Iraqi people. The society's president said that the states of the alliance were killing innocent civilians with great ferocity unprecedented in history. He asked the big powers committing these massacres to stop this unjust war. He also appealed to the free countries to work to stop it.

Equatoria Governor Says Juba Situation 'Stable'

EA0402100291 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Feb (SUNA)—Major General Allison Manayi Magayi, military governor of the Equatoria Region, has stressed that the security situation in and around Juba is stable following the mopping-up operations carried out by the Armed Forces. He also clarified in a statement made on his arrival here today, that the necessary essential relief items were stored in great quantities, and that the operations of recruiting and training the Popular Defense Forces were proceeding well and [words indistinct] had graduated.

Maj. Gen. Nasr al-Din Sulayman Ibrahim, Equatoria area military commander, also clarified in a statement today the stability of the security situation in and around Juba, and said that the Armed Forces were in control of their operational positions. They are [words indistinct] on the

[word indistinct] operations aimed at the citizens of the region who have rejected the principles of rebellion.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Condemns Allied Forces Attacks

LD0602084591 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Text] In an interview broadcast yesterday by Paris Radio, Foreign Minister Habib Boulares accused the allied powers of exceeding the international mission against Iraq, and of working to impose a colonial order in the Gulf by force. He asked: How many Iraqis must be killed to arrive at the liberation of Kuwait? He added: I see that for the 20th day, not a single square inch of Kuwait's soil has been liberated, while tens of thousands of explosives have been poured on the heads of the Iraqis.

The Tunisian foreign minister stressed that the alliance has gone beyond what the international resolutions allow to force President Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait. Resolution 678 does not give the permission to wage war, he said, and the question now is a distortion of law and legitimacy; it is a violation in the use of law.

Habib Boulares expressed his regret over the failure of the Security Council to reply to the request of the Arab Maghreb countries for an open session of the Security Council. He added: The international order is frozen and the situation has returned to the supremacy of the law of the stronger. There is no new international order. We are facing the old order, which we have experienced, namely the colonial order, which imposes its views by the language of arms, he said.

Red Crescent Says Medical Aid Sent to Iraq

LD0202183191 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] A statement released by the Tunisian Red Crescent notes that yesterday the first batch of Tunisian medical aid to Iraq crossed the Iranian-Iraqi borders, accompanied by representatives of the International Red Crescent Organization. Representatives of the Iraqi Red Crescent will distribute the 19 tons of Tunisian medical aid, which is aimed at helping the victims of the Gulf war. This first batch of medical aid to Iraq comes within the context of implementing President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's decision to send medicine and doctors to the Iraqi people in conjunction with the Tunisian Red Crescent.

Kuwait

Amir Receives Omani Minister, Qabus Message

LD0602095791 London KUNA in Arabic 0812 GMT
6 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Excerpts] Al-Ta'if, 6 Feb (KUNA)—His Highness the amir received this morning His Excellency Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, and an accompanying delegation, who conveyed to His Highness a message from his brother, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. [passage omitted]

The Omani minister described the peaceful initiatives offered to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait as being too late.

After his audience with the amir of Kuwait, the Omani minister told KUNA: "The initiatives have come too late. These initiatives should recognize the truth, which is that there can be no initiatives when there are resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council." He added: "The right initiative to be adopted by the whole world is to convince Iraq to adhere to the UN Security Council's resolutions, which is to withdraw from the State of Kuwait and to remain within its own borders." [passage omitted]

The Omani minister left al-Ta'if this morning.

Cabinet Praises Iran's 'Principled' War Stance

LD0602122691 London KUNA in Arabic 1148 GMT
6 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 6 Feb (KUNA)—The State of Kuwait has hailed the strong relations existing between it and Iran. It has also expressed its gratitude for "the frank and principled" Iranian positions regarding the sinful Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait.

This statement was made by the Kuwaiti information minister, Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, at the conclusion of the cabinet meeting today which was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

Dr. al-Ya'qub said that the Kuwaiti Cabinet reviewed the report submitted by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad on the results of his recent visit to Iran during which he conveyed a message from His Excellency the amir of Kuwait to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Dr. al-Ya'qub, who is also the minister of state for the affairs of the National Council, added that the Kuwaiti Cabinet "has praised the firm position and the strong

relations between Kuwait and the Islamic Republic of Iran that stem from pure Islamic values, which both countries believe in."

He indicated that the cabinet has expressed "its gratitude for Iran's frank and principled" position vis-a-vis the sinful Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait, and for its total neutrality regarding the war of liberation. This firm position represents an ideal picture of relations of good neighborliness which have been, still are, and will remain a clear example of the firm Islamic cooperation existing between the two countries.

French Defense Minister Visits Al-Ta'if

Meets With Amir

LD0502172991 London KUNA in Arabic 1642 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Ta'if, 5 Feb (KUNA)—His Highness Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah received French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe and his delegation this evening. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; ('Abd-al-Rahman al-'Atiqi), adviser at his highness's office; Defense Minister Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah; and Jean Bressot, French special envoy to the state of Kuwait.

Meets Defense Minister

LD0502215491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2057 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Ta'if, 5 Feb (SPA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah met French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe this evening to discuss bilateral relations and the means for their consolidation. The French minister reiterated during this meeting France's clear and frank attitude, which calls for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwaiti territories and supports legitimacy, which is represented in His Highness Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, his heir apparent. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Receives Phone Call From Egypt's Mubarak

LD0502183791 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a telephone call from his brother President Husni Mubarak of Egypt within the framework of the continuous consultations and exchanges of views on the latest developments on the Arab arena, the latest regarding the Arabian Gulf, and the military operations aimed at liberating Kuwait from the aggressive Iraqi forces. They also reviewed issues related to the two fraternal countries.

Prince Bandar 'Not Optimistic' Saddam To Respond
LD0502134591 Riyadh SPA in English 1225 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Washington, Feb 5, SPA—Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi ambassador to Washington has lauded the stand of the U.S. people towards the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the current military operations to liberate Kuwait.

Prince Bandar, in an interview published by the USA TODAY newspaper, said nobody could expect that such war of great mobilizations would proceed without loss of lives.

He said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made adequate preparation for chemical warfare in anticipation that Saddam might use such weapons as he did against his own Kurdish population.

Prince Bandar said he thinks that Saddam is unpredictable and he could do anything and added that he is not optimistic that the Iraqi regime would respond to peaceful initiatives as similar appeals in the past had been rejected.

Prince Bin-Salman Visits Wounded Saudi Troops
LD0502135591 Riyadh SPA in English 1235 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Dhahran, Feb 5, SPA—Prince Fahd Bin-Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, vice-governor of the Eastern Province, paid a visit yesterday to the military hospital at the King 'Abd-al-'Aziz air base in Dhahran and King Fahd military medical complex to comfort the wounded Saudi troops.

Prince Fahd congratulated the wounded troops who took part in the retaking of al-Khafji and conveyed to them the greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Later Prince Fahd visited the command of the Eastern Province where he met with a number of officers and inspected the progress of work at the command.

On the other hand, medical correspondents for the various Western T.V. networks reported on a Saudi military hospital in the Eastern Province and its role in treating casualties from the battle for al-Khafji. The reports said the Saudi medical system performed well in receiving and treating war casualties.

The CBS-T.V.'s medical correspondent said the Saudis can count two victories in the past week: The retaking of al-Khafji and the prompt and efficient treatment of Saudi and allied wounded in the Saudi hospital system.

Joint Forces Issue Military Communique No. 19
LD0502185691 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1702 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Military Communique No. 19 of the Command of the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations, issued in Riyadh on 5 February]

[Text] A group of the aggressor forces estimated at 30 tried to breach the northern border, and in so doing they used light weapons and RBG antitank missiles. The group was discovered and an exchange of fire took place. The Syrian artillery shelled the group and forced it to withdraw.

A total of 817 prisoners, including 43 officers, have now been taken since the beginning of Operation Desert Storm.

A limited artillery exchange took place on our northern border between the joint forces and the aggressor forces. No losses occurred in our forces.

The number of sorties carried out by the joint air forces and the Theater of Operations has reached well over 47,000, of which our Air Force has carried out well over 3,000.

At 1440 yesterday [4 February] one of the Dolphin aircraft of the Royal Saudi Navy discovered two naval targets of the aggressor near the island of Umm al-Maradim. One of them was a sailboat. It was shelled and sunk. The other was a maintenance and support vessel. It was also shelled and set on fire.

A Kuwaiti navy vessel discovered a sea mine north of the Arabian Gulf, which was blown up by the U.S. Navy.

Yesterday, aircraft belonging to the U.S. Marines attacked a group of 20-30 tanks in southern Kuwait. So far the damage has not been assessed.

A number of aircraft from the same unit also shelled a convoy of 25 vehicles in the same region. A number of these vehicles were set alight and explosions followed the blaze.

Saudi Commander Reviews Al-Khafji Operation
PM0502153591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 2 Feb 91 pp1, 4

[Mahir 'Abbas and Muhammad Samman report: "Saudi Operation Commander Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Recapture of Al-Khafji Took Place in Two Stages and The Battle Only Lasted Two Hours"]

[Text] Al-Khafji, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In his first interview with any Arab or foreign paper, Major General Sultan al-'Idi, commander of the Saudi forces which led the assault for the recapture of al-Khafji, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the operation was very precise and was carried out with a high degree of cooperation and coordination.

Maj. Gen. al-'Idi said that various formations of Saudi and Qatari forces managed to besiege and completely isolate the Iraqi forces which had infiltrated into al-Khafji.

He said the operation was simple and was carried out in a short time, the battle not lasting more than two hours.

On the military tactics used in the operation, he said: In the first phase of the operation we cut the aggressor's forces off from al-Khafji road.

In the second phase, he added, the Saudi forces advanced and mounted their assault on the infiltrated Iraqi tanks and other vehicles, denying them the opportunity to regroup.

Maj. Gen. al-'Idi added: We mounted a major ground attack in the center, leaving the aggressor's forces no way out. So they began surrendering and destroying their military vehicles.

He said that the final count of the dead was not complete by 2030 Friday.

The Saudi commander, who was interviewed by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in the operation theater near the center of the small border town of al-Khafji not far from the al-Khafji border post leading to the Kuwaiti al-Nuwaysib border post, also said: Some Iraqi soldiers tried to escape but were surprised to find themselves facing our forces, so they had no alternative but to surrender.

Asked for his own interpretation of the Iraqi infiltration operation, Maj. Gen. al-'Idi said: Saddam Husayn is trying to draw us into a ground battle because his position and that of his troops, who were forced into the battle, had become desperate. Many Iraqi soldiers are saying that they do not want this war.

In the interview, conducted in the moonlight with the lights of al-Khafji still off, Maj. Gen. al-'Idi said: I want to reassure the Saudi people and all our leaders that our men are defending this good land. I also congratulate my brothers and colleagues the officers and soldiers of the Saudi and Qatari armed forces for the fighting and defensive skills they have demonstrated to the satisfaction of all our leaders everywhere.

Maj. Gen. al-'Idi said the condition of the captured Iraqis was painful, for some of them had not eaten for two days and others had been under the threat of being killed if they retreated.

French Defense Minister Continues Visit

Prince Sultan Hosts Banquet

LD0502135391 Riyadh SPA in English 1226 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 5, SPA—Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, minister of defense, aviation and inspector general hosted a dinner banquet here last night in the honour of the visiting French defense minister, Pierre Joxe and his accompanying delegation.

Afterwards, the two ministers held a bilateral meeting during which they discussed the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Joxe Meets With Troops

LD0502143991 Paris Antenne 2 Television Network
in French 1200 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] Defense Minister Pierre Joxe is continuing his visit to French soldiers in Saudi Arabia. Jacques Merlino reports from Riyadh:

[Merlino] A discreet trip by the new defense minister—no cameras for his visit to the Operation Daguet command post yesterday, or for his talks this morning with the airmen of the al-Ahsa base. The reason for this discretion was specified at the start of his press conference: I came first and foremost to get to know the officers, and to reflect on the nature of this conflict. The minister came to see, not to be seen. It is a visit which permitted him to specify France's role in this war:

[Begin recording] France's political, diplomatic, international, and military action is aimed at restoring—and when the time comes, consolidating—peace in this region of the world, as in the rest of the world. There are also the operations in which French units are currently playing an international role—one sees this in particular with our airmen—and also in the future—this depends on the conditions and the contingency of a phase of land operations. As you know, the date has not yet been set and will depend on the general (?moment). France, within this whole, takes its place, and plays its full part within the framework of conditions, which I believe are well known. [end recording]

[Merlino] The defense minister, after meeting his Saudi counterpart, will go to al-Ta'if for a similar visit to the Kuwaitis. Finally, on his return, he will stop off in Cairo. All these meetings should, in his own words, give him a more precise, more concrete, and more human view of this conflict.

Says Troops Will Fight Ground War

AU0502152291 Paris AFP in English 1503 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 5 (AFP)—French troops will take part in any ground war against Iraqi forces, French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe promised here Tuesday while maintaining that "France is not at war against anybody."

Participation in an eventual land war was the reason for the presence here of a French division which was "powerfully armed and admirably trained," he said.

France—a country notorious for objecting to outside command of its forces—must "take its place" in the allied coalition, Mr. Joxe said.

Mr. Joxe moved from the Interior Ministry to the Defense Ministry last week after Jean-Pierre Chevènement resigned as defense minister. The outgoing minister said the French Government and the allies were waging a war that went beyond the bounds of a U.N. Security Council resolution empowering the allies to use all necessary means to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait and reestablish peace and security in the region.

"France is not at war," Mr. Joxe told reporters. "It is participating in the implementation of a U.N. Security Council resolution with a certain number of other countries" which were seeking "to develop the principle of collective security."

During his two-day trip here, Mr. Joxe has met French troops and held talks with Saudi Defense Minister Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud and with General Norman Schwarzkopf, the commander of the U.S. forces.

He said the visit had allowed him to reflect on the evolution of the war and its military, political and diplomatic ramifications.

The trip had also given him "a more precise, concrete and human" view of the situation of the French forces, he said, adding that he had found their morale high.

Joxe Comments on Liberating Kuwait

*LD0502220291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2140 GMT
5 Feb 91*

[Text] Riyadh, 5 February, SPA—French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe has said that the aim of his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was to meet the French forces participating in the liberation of Kuwait operation, and to meet senior officials in the Kingdom led by the second deputy prime minister, defense minister and inspector general, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

In a statement at a news conference in Riyadh today on the occasion of his visit to the French forces participating in the Desert Storm operation, the French minister said: I found the French forces' morale was high. I have also noticed that there is good cooperation among the joint forces in the region.

Joxe said that his country is participating with other countries in the military operations to liberate Kuwait on the basis of the UN Security council resolutions, after having sought peace up to the last day. He said that France's role is clear and has been made evident in fighting the aggressor, and by working to implement international law and to move toward justice, equilibrium and peace.

The French minister stressed that the liberation of Kuwait will be achieved through the military solution.

Citizens Message To King Said To Criticize War

*JN0602125891 Amman AL-LIWA' in Arabic
6 Feb 91 pp 3, 20*

[Excerpt] Very reliable information obtained by AL-LIWA' indicates that grumbling and uneasiness currently prevail in Saudi society over the presence of the American and Western forces on its territory and the shock these forces caused to this society. At the same time, voices are getting louder, demanding a qualitative change in the government structure that would achieve a reasonable degree of freedom and modernize the basic rules of government to guarantee an honorable living for the Saudi citizens and enable them to protect their country without the help of foreigners.

This information emphasizes that the Saudi society was shocked to see foreigners, their fleets, and armies "defending" Saudi Arabia and attacking Iraq and its people at a time when it has become clear to the Saudis that although billions [currency not specified] have been spent on them, the Saudi forces are unable to defend the country.

In this context, AL-LIWA' has obtained the text of a lengthy memorandum sent by 43 prominent Saudi personalities to the Saudi monarch in which they called for the withdrawal of foreign fleets from the Gulf region immediately after the crisis is settled. They stressed that the objective behind the foreign forces' presence should be to defend Saudi Arabia and not to attack the Muslim Iraqi people. They also demanded that the presence of these foreign forces be controlled by Saudi Arabia so that the forces will leave the region immediately after the crisis is settled or at the request of the Saudi Government.

The memorandum reads: "Your majesty, please be big-hearted, because we want to convey to you our fears and those of our people over the fact that these fleets remind us of the old fleets that colonized the Arab Gulf region on the pretext of defending it and which later settled in it and exploited its wealth and resources to serve foreign interests and continued to play this role for tens of years."

They also expressed their fear that "these fleets would establish permanent bases in our region, and that we will become hostages in their hands. They will suppress us, overburden us with taxes and debts, and deprive us of our ability to make our independent political decision, which gives top priority to defending our sanctities and the interests of our country and people, and thus we will become the modern-day hostages of these fleets."

The senders of the memorandum expressed their dismay over changing the basic objective behind the presence of these forces—namely, to force Iraq out of Kuwait—into another colonialist objective that has nothing to do with the Arab and Muslim peoples, namely, to destroy the people and economy of the region.

The memorandum adds: "We express our concern over the recklessness of some military commanders, their

thirst for blood and the tipping of the balance in favor of Israel. We demand, therefore, that the military decision must be in your majesty's hands, away from pressures and the ambitions of some sides. This is because war is destructive, and we agree with you on not supporting it."

The senders of the memorandum expressed their astonishment at and fear over the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's announcement that it cannot defend its borders. They said: "The Saudi citizens were expecting that the Kingdom's force of men and sophisticated weapons would place it at the peak of the best military levels in the Middle East region, and that our armed forces could confront the region's armies, especially because we have allocated hundreds of billions from our annual income to spend on our army. They were astonished, however, when we announced to the world that we could not defend our borders by ourselves, something which exacerbated the impact of the crisis on the sons of our people, caused them pain, and triggered their denunciation."

The memo added: "The sons of our people are pained to see millions and even billions being spent on building palaces and on other luxuries. They also note the absence of controls on financial expenditure, which was not based on the principles of social justice, preservation of the nation's wealth, and sound future planning as we were expecting."

The memo stressed the need to respect the feelings of the Arabs in Saudi Arabia and not to antagonize them merely because their governments' positions differ from those of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, emphasizing that "every Arab citizen is a brother and a support for us in difficult times, regardless of his government's stands." The memo called for the following:

1. The need to expedite the establishment of the ruling system and the country's permanent constitution on the basis of the Koran, the teachings of His prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, and the principle of organizing the interests of the country and people. This constitution should be presented to the people for refinement and approval in a public referendum.
2. The need to finalize the establishment of an elected constituent assembly to act as a legislative and supervisory body in charge of implementing the articles of the constitution, adopting plans, and dealing with outstanding problems. This body will be a living conscience expressing the nation's conscience as well as a legal eye to safeguard the interests of our country and citizens against any exploitation by any official of his office or any expansion of his circle of influence at the expense of the nation's interests. We also hope it will be an inspection center that specifies our country's sources of income and financial expenditure in such a manner that priority is given to the interests of the homeland and the citizen in the country's economic and social development.
3. To allow the press to reflect the positive and negative aspects of the situation in our country in full, responsible freedom. The press should be independent and express

the opinion of its writers. A new up-to-date system coping with the facts and changes in our country and the world should be drawn up for the press.

4. To guarantee the freedom of expression in terms of opinion, thinking, and criticism on all academic and popular levels. It should be given the chance to become an honorable and responsible freedom that believes in the exchange of and differences in opinion, that respects the opposite opinion, that promotes the meaning of affiliation to the entity and homeland, and that entrenches the traditions of respecting the citizens' personal, cultural, and social freedom.

The unilateral opinion and that imposed by force will not take root nor turn into a practical driving force, no matter how sound it is, unless it is compared with other opinions.

The memo also called for solving the health, cultural, and scientific problems from which the Saudi society is suffering, abolishing nepotism and both tribal and sectarian discrimination in all domains, allowing the youth to enlist in the Armed Forces in order to defend their land, and not giving an opportunity for male and female foreigners to defend Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted including signatures of 43 Saudi citizens]

Paper Reviews Failure of Iraqi Scud Attacks

LD0502195891 Riyadh SPA in English 1923 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, Feb. 5, SPA—A Saudi English newspaper today said another strategy devised by Saddam Husayn has failed abysmally.

"The Scuds he lobbed against Saudi Arabia have not had the results he expected. His attempts to sow fear and create tension and panic have, thus, boomeranged. On the contrary, it is his people who are whining and wailing and, as an analyst observes, it may take at least 10 years for normalcy to return to that nation," RIYADH DAILY said.

"What's the next surprise from Saddam Husayn? No more does he have many weapons in his armamentarium [as received] except chemical and biological as some analysts say. But if he ever employed them in desperation, he faces terrible retribution. U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle did not altogether rule out the use of nuclear weapons against Iraq during his recent visit to London.

"There is no leader in the world today as desperate and frustrated as Saddam Husayn. All his dreams of glory are crumbling. Instead of a mighty power, his Iraq today is in total ruin. His disoriented armed forces are in total disarray. His economy is in tatters. His people are demoralized, despair-ridden and despondent," it added.

Commentary Chides Saddam for Polluting Gulf

LD0502171691 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Commentary by Dr. Talal Salih Bannan—read by announcer]

[Text] Saddam Husayn's aggressive regime has been committing crimes that go beyond conventional limits. He continues to threaten the security of the region's states and the safety of its peoples and is harming the interests of the human race and the future of this race on Earth. The damage caused by the aggression of Saddam Husayn's fascist regime against mankind is going beyond the present, reaching out to future generations, which will suffer from the aggressiveness of Saddam, whose specter will stand before them, reminding them of the devious nature of his despotism, the extremism of his tyranny, and his persistent hatred for mankind and the meaning of life itself.

Given his aggression against Kuwait and his threats to Gulf security, his management of the current Gulf conflict has reinforced the satanic tendencies of his personality, which first appeared when he took power in Iraq. More still, some peoples of the region, including the Iraqi people, had, a short time ago, come out of a tragic experience caused by his evil leanings: a vicious, eight-year war during which he did not hesitate to use the most devastating and internationally prohibited weapons to impose his tyrannical willpower against the people of a neighboring state and against sections of his Muslim and unarmed people.

In the crazy war, which in no way served any national supreme interest, or a noble pan-Arab objective, or a lofty human idea, he used weapons that had no decisive military value and were just an expression of an aggressive tendency vis-a-vis everything that mankind represented: sanctity of blood, dignity of the human race, and value of its honor.

But now, in the war underway in the Gulf, we see that Saddam Husayn's aggressiveness, his savagery and barbarism have not contented themselves with exercising their despotism against man. They have transcended this to cause damage to the natural environment and life. This is regarded as direct aggression against life itself. What is the crime of marine life? What did sea birds do? What did migratory birds and Gulf fish commit to be a

direct target for Saddam Husayn's aggressiveness? What is the military target that Saddam Husayn could attain by pouring raw petroleum into the Gulf waters, or by setting fire to the Kuwaiti oil fields? If he wanted to take revenge on the Kuwaiti people and destroy the sources of its national wealth, then how can we explain his insistence on pouring Iraqi oil from al-Bukr port into the Gulf waters, now that the allied forces have managed to stop the leaking of Kuwaiti oil?

By pouring oil into the Gulf waters, was Saddam Husayn's intention to cause damage to the water desalination stations built by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a testimony to the extent of civilization's progress reached by the Kingdom, and to stop the pumping of potable water into the desert wilderness that has become green thanks to this civilization's achievement? Does the pouring of oil in the Gulf waters come within the diabolical scheme of Saddam Husayn which reflects the level of his rancor and jealousy toward the level of progress and prosperity achieved by the Kingdom, and which is aimed at seeking to take the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia back to a primitive bedouin life where there is no water, no greenness, and no civilization?

All satanic objectives could have been in the mind of Saddam Husayn when he decided to pour oil in the Gulf waters, but what is above argument is that pouring oil in the Gulf is regarded as terribly damaging to both the environment and natural life, the effect of which will remain for future generations. It is a barbaric and savage act emanating from a man that has shedded the human spirit and reneged on lofty human ethics, thus turning into a damned Satan that is cursed by every living being that mentions the name of God and says praise be to God.

The insistence of the Iraqi ruler to harm the environment is regarded as a war crime, which he is still waging and boasting about. International law does not punish for committing crimes against humanity only, but also crimes against intentional damage to the environment. By insisting on causing damage to the environment, Saddam Husayn is vying with the tyrants and despots of history, whose ruthlessness would not reach the point of harming the source of life on Earth.

Getting rid of Saddam Husayn and his regime would not just serve international peace and security but also the future of life on the surface of Earth.

Communique, Statements Detail Situation

Communique Issued 5 Feb

NC0502195191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1904 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Communique No. 38 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Everything that has happened over the past days and is happening today—namely, this vicious conspiracy against the nation and its upsurge, and this open armed aggression against the nation's territory and sanctities, especially against Iraq, the base of liberation and freedom for all Arabs and Muslims—was expected and accurately calculated in the broad mind of Iraq's leader, the knight of the Arabs, the great Saddam Husayn.

Through its leader, Iraq long warned against underestimating the conspiracy and the aggression and against surrendering or responding to the enemies' intrigues. Moreover, Iraq prepared itself for the confrontation and made available the factors of victory—all recorded Arab and Islamic epics of heroism and all resources possessed by Iraq and its pan-Arab standing. These resources can be decisive if used properly, and they were. Through this, Iraq secured the power to counter the aggression and to emerge with the laurels of victory, God willing.

It is worth recalling that the allegations made by Bush and other Western rulers about protecting Fahd and showing concern for the defunct al-Sabah family were only a cover to conceal the essence of the conflict. The main objectives of the conspiracy and the aggression are to render ineffective [ibtal] Iraq's power; to confront its political, military, and economic structure; and to repress this experience and to prevent it from shining from the conscience and body of the Arab nation. The clearest evidence of this is the fact that the aggressors target, in the first place, Iraq's citizens and not its quantitative military abundance. They even avoid fighting our forces out of fear that their schemes will collapse in such a confrontation.

Iraq, however, has built for itself and for its Arab and Muslim brothers an edifice and a force in which they take pride and has developed reliable means to liberate land and man. The resolute, steadfast, and mujahid Iraq has indeed buried the major part of the objectives of the conspiracy and aggression. Its Armed Forces, which are held in high esteem by the whole world, will be able to destroy all that is left and all the weapons and bastards the invaders amassed.

Today we are stronger than ever before, and we are, God willing, able to destroy the aggressors. Bush, will see, not hear, our reply to the murder of unarmed civilians.

O sons of the beloved homeland. O our brothers in pan-Arabism. O our brothers in faith. The barbarian evildoers continued their shelling of residential areas last

night and this morning. Air sorties in this period totaled 391. The men of our air and ground defenses confronted the ravens of the aggressors in the battlefield and all over the homeland. Our men, with the help of God, were able to down nine planes. God bless and support them and guide them to serve this homeland. From God we seek support.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 9 Rajab 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 5 February 1991

Missile Strike on Dhahran Claimed

NC0502201491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1941 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Statement released by "a military spokesman" on 5 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In retaliation for the U.S. Administration's crimes against our country, supported by its agents, the Saudi rulers, and in challenge of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic presence desecrating the sanctities of the holy land of all Arabs and Muslims, our heroic missile forces this evening dealt a destructive strike with al-Husayn missiles at the Dhahran base, the symbol of violation and disdain of the sanctity of the holy land.

Let the Saudi rulers and their masters understand that we will continue to strike at the heads of the invaders and the humiliated traitors until they stop their aggression and take their hands off the land of Arabs and Muslims, foremost the house of God, the tomb of the messenger of God, and the third holy mosque in Palestine. God, our nation, and all the good people are with us. The invaders and their slaves will only reap sorrow in life and God's torture in the other life. God will not recant His promise even if the atheists were not to like it. Our missile launchers returned safely, praise be to God. Blessed be the men, officers and noncommissioned officers, operating them.

[Dated] 5 February 1991

Two Aircraft Claimed 6 Feb

NC0602101391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0929 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Statement by a military spokesman in Baghdad on 6 February—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. The conflict continues between the two wills of good and evil. Victory remains certain for Iraq with the help of God. The Iraqis' will has not been weakened, their patience has not been lost, and the value of their land has not been belittled. They never left their position for one day as a vanguard which fights and builds, or let another banner rise higher than theirs. They never relinquished their rights or showed leniency in terms of their

nation's rights under the pretext of being flexible. No. They never ignored their role in the liberation battles. They did not and will not agree to let the holy mosque and the burial place of the Prophet of God be hostages for two things: The occupation by the barbarian atheists and the corrupt control of the Sa'ud family.

Today, all of Iraq, from east to west, is united under one thought, one conscience, and one arm. It is enough for Iraq that God is with it, that its entire nation is rallying around it and struggling with it, that all able Muslims are backing it, and that the free people of the world are standing beside it. It is enough that they [not further identified] harbored terrorism, and they are surprised by its steadfastness, fearing the encounter with it, and standing as hesitant cowards at its doorstep. All they can do is to send their ravens to bombard its quarters from a distance, without harming its walls. Their waves are being broken by the proud souls. Following is an account of our activities and the enemy's aggression:

First: Yesterday evening, our missile force directed a destructive strike with al-Husayn missiles at the center of protection for the Sa'ud family from the people's wrath—that is, Dhahran base. Our missile launchers then returned safely to base, with God's help.

Second: The ravens of Bush raided our residential neighborhoods and our sectors last night and this morning, carrying out 263 [number as received] air and missile missions. The scoundrels did not achieve any of their objectives. With God's help, an enemy missile and two aircraft were shot down.

O glory will be for every Iraqi who is countering fire with fire. May the Almighty bless your jihad. O men of our missile force, our air and ground defenses, and all our fighters. O glorious Iraqis, forge ahead. God's victory is imminent. God is with you as long as you uphold the rights and fight for them.

[Dated] 6 February

Correspondents View Effects of Bombardment

NC0602091591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—Correspondents of foreign television networks, news agencies, and newspapers today visited the al-Dawr district in the Salah al-Din governorate to view the effects of the brutal and aggressive bombardment of Iraq by U.S. imperialism and its Atlantic allies.

The correspondents viewed the great damage caused to residential areas and civilians, including children, women, and old men.

Food, Fuel Shortages Reported in Basra

LD0602115191 Tehran IRNA in English 1114 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Feb. 6, IRNA—Iraqi cities and especially Basra which have sustained the heaviest damage in the air and missile attacks by the U.S.-led forces are facing foodstuff shortages.

According to those who have fled Iraq in the recent days and sought asylum with Iran a sack of flour is sold at 800 dinars at the free market and the amount provided by the government under a rationing program is very little and of poor quality.

Petrol is not sold to the people of the cities which are the target of air and missile attacks as to prevent them from fleeing the city. Therefore, people spend their times in shelters inside and outside the cities in order to minimize the risk.

Those who have fled say that no one is immune to the fire of the U.S.-led forces anywhere in Iraq.

In Basra, most bridges, mosques, schools and residential areas have been destroyed and several people have been killed or wounded.

Israel's Sharon Allegedly Joins U.S. Command

NC0602142491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1409 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have said that Ari'el Sharon, the enemy housing minister, has joined the command of the American military operations in the Arabian Peninsula to participate in directing the aggression against Iraq.

40 Allied Troops Said Killed in 'Bombardment'

NC0602161291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Text] INA has learned from diplomatic sources that 40 soldiers of the aggression troops were killed due to Iraqi bombardment of the Hafar al-Batin area in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

According to the same sources, 38 others were injured in the same area. The dead and wounded were evacuated to Abu Dhabi.

In another development, a number of Moroccan soldiers arrived in Rabat and were admitted into hospital for treatment of injuries sustained in the land of Najd and Hejaz. Well-informed diplomatic sources told INA in Rabat that the said soldiers were injured in an exchange of fire with U.S. and Saudi troops. The exchange occurred due to their maltreatment at the hands of U.S. and Saudi servicemen. According to the same sources, the Moroccan soldiers also shot dead their commanding officer who sided with the Americans and Saudis. The sources note that the Moroccan soldier who started the

shootout was returned with a number of soldiers from his unit to Rabat where he will appear before a military court on charges of killing the unit's commanding officer.

Aerial Bombardment of 'Civilians' Reported

NC0602152391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT
6 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH and AL-QADISIYAH have revealed new facts about the crimes of Bush and his agents against defenseless civilians. The papers ask: What is the position of international organizations with respect to the bombardment of homes, hospitals, and holy sites?

In pictorial reports published today, the papers assert that history will never forgive the crimes committed by Bush and his infidel allies who declared war on Iraq and sanctioned the killing of children, women, and old people in their own homes.

AL-JUMHURIYAH publishes a full-page report illustrated by pictures of some of the effects of the brutal bombardment of the forces of aggression and evil on the steadfast city of Basra. The pictures show many houses, as well as hospitals and holy sites, which were totally destroyed.

The paper cites officials and citizens who describe the effects of the aggressive, barbaric bombardment of some residential neighborhoods which are being subjected daily and continuously to treacherous, brutal, and aggressive aerial bombardment.

In another pictorial report published by the same paper, AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that at noon last Monday [4 February] hostile missiles hit and demolished more than 30 houses, turning the residential area into a screen of black smoke. It added that the hit on the "military target" whose destruction Bush bragged about resulted in the injury of more than 50 children and women, some of whom were killed in hospitals, and led to the amputation of the legs of a young bride.

AL-QADISIYAH also publishes two pictorial reports. The first talks about the barbaric bombardment of civilians in the city of al-Samawah, the center of the al-Muthanna Governorate; the second talks about the crime of the treacherous in the al-Dur district in Salah al-Din Governorate.

In its first report, the paper says that al-Samawah received a sizable portion of the blind shells of hatred that are falling on various areas of Iraq's defenseless cities and villages.

The paper adds that evil and malice afflicted a residential neighborhood, terrorizing the sons of Iraq and its free women and children and bringing down houses on top of those inside, without scruples of conscience or mercy.

In its pictorial report on al-Dur district, the paper asserts that Bush's strategic aim is to kill children, women, and the elderly and to demolish houses, hospitals, and places of worship.

The pictures published illustrate part of the crime of the treacherous in this district where the brutal bombardment led to the martyrdom and injury of innocent citizens and demolished homes.

'Mother of Battles' Airs Saddam CNN Interview

NC0602090091 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio
Network in Arabic 1759 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by CNN correspondent Peter Arnett in Baghdad on 28 January—recorded; Saddam speaks in Arabic with alternating passage-by-passage and superimposed translation into English; Arnett speaks in English with alternating passage-by-passage and superimposed translation into Arabic—processed from the Arabic]

[Text] [Arnett] Mr. President Saddam Husayn, I came to this meeting in a car [word indistinct] through the dark roads of Baghdad. [words indistinct] by the U.S. attacks on the Iraqi power stations. The U.S. air raids on your country are many and the U.S. (?command) [words indistinct] that they are winning the first round of this war. What do you say to this?

[Saddam] We say that light emerges from darkness. Whenever the U.S. Administration expects that it is covering Baghdad with darkness, it will face the light inside the hearts of the Iraqi people, based on a deep belief in the one God. [words indistinct] brought by the U.S. Administration [words indistinct]. You see that the picture now is different from what they were talking about before they started the aggression against us. What happened will [word indistinct] the U.S. Administration and the specialists who are helping it are saying that they are winning the first round. We will leave this as a matter for the American people to decide, because the American people [words indistinct].

So we leave the assessment to the people of the United States, all free nations in the world, and to you too, on whether they have actually won in the first round, or whether disgrace befell them the moment they decided to make this decision. We believe that they have been defeated by simply signing their decision, because they signed an unjust decision. The days and weeks have come—we are now in the second week—and the day-to-day details of the developments will emerge to show the defeat [words indistinct]. Winning and losing does not hinge on winning or losing a battle quickly, because winning depends on gaining the satisfaction of the one and only God [passage indistinct]. This is the criteria we follow.

[Arnett] You have had an eight-year long war with Iran. [words indistinct], throughout that war, throughout that time, (?Iraq) was not affected or harmed in the same way

it has been harmed this time. Therefore, how do you evaluate this period of conflict [words indistinct]?

[Saddam] We must not forget that our people have never been as pure in their spirits as they are now. Our Armed Forces have never been as determined throughout [the history] [words indistinct] and throughout all the difficult circumstances, which they faced and which they had to deal with.

[Arnett] A large number of Iraqi planes are now [landing] in Iranian airports. The [announced] figure is [figure indistinct] aircraft. Can you shed some light on the reasons behind this [word indistinct]?

[Saddam] Regardless of the figures which you hear, and which we know, what is important is that Iraq and Iran are two Muslim neighboring countries. And, regardless of the past circumstances, these ties will remain [words indistinct] relations between the two countries. Since the battle is now between faith and infidelity, between right and wrong, between treachery and honesty, between justice and fairness, and oppression and hegemony and aggression, then do not expect that there will be Muslim countries which are not with us in such a battle. Naturally, when some of Iraq's planes find they have to land in this or that Islamic country, they would do so in that spirit and in such a [word indistinct].

[Arnett] But will these planes continue to be used in this war? Will they return to Iraq to be used in this conflict?

[Saddam] In all cases, we respect the laws and will of [word indistinct].

[Arnett] [words indistinct] can these planes [words indistinct].

[Saddam] If the [circumstance] [words indistinct].

[Arnett] The other issue now is [words indistinct] oil in the Gulf, the oil slick in the Gulf, [words indistinct] claims that the bombing of the Iraqi tankers caused this slick. But the United States says the Iraqi officials opened the oil pipes and let it flow into the Gulf [words indistinct].

[Saddam] The fact is that the United States hit a number of tankers which were loaded with oil. This is a fact. The Western media did not deny this fact. [words indistinct] it must have then been aware that these tankers were loaded with oil. Add to this that the United States attacked some oil installations. Therefore, these are the facts [words indistinct]. Therefore, the United States is not concerned with preventing the leaking of oil in this or that place, whether on land or in the sea. Nor is it concerned with the negative effects on the environment in the sea or other places. When it does so [words indistinct]. Hence the U.S. Administration cannot allege that it is doing this within the framework of necessity and legitimate self-defense [words indistinct]. Therefore, if the military field commanders view the use of oil [as part] of the legitimate right to self-defense and defending the homeland [words indistinct] or in any other form,

then such commanders will have the right to do so. Thus, this is the picture now [words indistinct].

[Arnett] Are you saying that [words indistinct] open and the oil [word indistinct] the Gulf was really a military maneuver?

[Saddam] I did not say this. I have said that the United States used oil without being forced to do so. The indisputable fact is that the United States has hit oil tankers full of oil. It knew that they were full of oil, and it knew that when this oil spills into the water, it causes damage. When these tankers were hit, they were inside Iraq's territorial waters. The United States also hit oil pipelines and announced this publicly. It hit the loading platforms. These platforms are in Iraq's territorial waters. U.S. experts know that when they hit loading platforms and destroy the oil pipelines in these platforms, oil will leak and flow into Iraqi territorial waters. This act cannot be regarded as an act of necessity. However, if the Iraqis use oil for defensive purposes, even in the sea, they are justified in doing so. It is certain that the future will show that the United States is responsible for this.

[Arnett] Then what you are saying, Mr. President, is that you reserve the right to use oil as a military weapon in the open sea?

[Saddam] I said what I have said. Everything is clear.

[Arnett] Another issue [in the minds of Americans]—American prisoners of wars and [those] of the multinational force. It is reported that your government will use prisoners of war—pilots—as human shields in strategic installations. This was announced last week. Is this what actually happened, and will it continue?

[Saddam] What we announced was an official declaration. But are there people in the West who can still talk about ethics and law? Take this example [words indistinct]. Do you remember what [words indistinct] before Iraq made a declaration banning foreigners from travel to prevent the outbreak of war? Do you remember what was said about our decision? It was described as an immoral, illegal, and inhuman decision. The West was bragging about its humanity, and some Western rulers were [words indistinct] such allegations to people who had not yet discovered their true nature fully. Do you remember this? Do you know what they are doing now, those same [words indistinct] who were criticizing our decisions? Do you know that they are detaining the Iraqis, even the students who went to study in the West? They are being detained, and the decision to detain them has been made public. Do you know the restrictions imposed on the Americans of Arab origin—on the Iraqis and the Maghreb people who hold various citizenships throughout the West, in a number of Western countries? A number of Arabs who previously held Arab nationalities became citizens of Western nations. However, in the wake of the war, severe restrictions were imposed on them in violation of the rules of these countries, including your own country, the United States. Is this

not a demonstration of a double standard? Do you notice how long it took for these double standards to surface? They took 10 days to emerge. Do you see how much of the West's defects we have exposed in such a short time?

Rest assured that we feel that you in the West need our steadfastness and rejection of this arrogance, which comes out from [words indistinct]. We feel that the human being inside you, that your humanity as Americans, as citizens, and that your humanity as Frenchmen and Britons in the West needs our position in rejecting hegemony and double standards more than it needs the decision of hegemony and double standards emerging from [words indistinct]. [word indistinct] need to expose double standards. The world needs someone to tell the one who carries the biggest stick in the world that the stick that you carry in your hand cannot bring down the house of God and cannot [word indistinct] the humanity of man. This is what you need in the West. You do not need to see your planes kill a large number of children, women, and elderly people in Iraq. [word indistinct] are people; and people do not need this. But, Bush, or the devil inside Bush, needs this.

[Arnett] [words indistinct] You said that [words indistinct] international norms and the Geneva Convention does not fall in line with the use of these prisoners of war as human shields.

[Saddam] [words indistinct] the Iraqi students [words indistinct]. Therefore, these double standards prevail in the countries which call themselves the number one countries in the world. These countries are asking the small countries, which they describe as Third World nations, to apply the law. But they consider themselves above the law, and exempted from it.

[Arnett] We believe that you visited the battlefield occasionally. We have seen pictures of you down in Kuwait. Could you tell us what it is like to be at the front and what the battlefield situation [words indistinct]?

[Saddam] The men of faith there are holding steadfast. [words indistinct] they went there to drive the Iraqi Army from Kuwait. [passage indistinct] I do not want to insult anyone but I merely say that this is what is found in the dictionary, that any person who does not tell the truth is a liar. The Iraqi Army is in Kuwait. It is certain that you Americans used to think that the attack would be launched against the Army—the attacks of the 16th [16 January] against the 19th [governorate—reference to Kuwait] [words indistinct]. He did not begin the attack against the Armed Forces in the 19th governorate [Kuwait], but in Baghdad. He did not launch it against the military forces, but against security and economic installations. Doubtless you remember, as a journalist, how many assurances were issued by the White House media about the destruction of Iraqi nuclear power. Did you not ask yourself why? Did you not as an American realize that the battle, therefore, was not for the sake of Kuwait, but for other reasons? These are the same reasons for which the U.S. Administration incited the Kuwaiti rulers to conspire against us

before 2 August. They are also the same reasons for which the U.S. Administration decided to prevent the sending of grain and food to Iraq five months before the events of 2 August. For the same reasons, the U.S. Administration raised the slogan of boycotting Iraq technologically and in matters of security. This happened more than five months before the events of 2 August. Unfortunately the ordinary U.S. citizen could not put together all those measures which the U.S. Administration adopted before the events of 2 August to reach the same conclusion we reached before that date. For that reason, Bush was able to lie to the American people. However, we will help you to unmask the liars. We will do this with these facts. The facts are revealed now. President Bush cannot deny that he began the attacks on scientific and economic installations, and not on the Army in Kuwait [passage indistinct].

[Arnett] The military experts of the U.S. military command and [words indistinct] are saying that they can probably destroy your [words indistinct] in Kuwait with bombardment—with aerial bombing—and may not need to invade or reinvade, but just mop up the remainder of your forces. [words indistinct] how can they survive the massive bombing that [words indistinct] can bring to bear?

[Saddam] This is what we said and what we warned of before the war began. Do you remember? I think you remember [words indistinct]. He made a statement that it would be a matter of 24 hours. Then (?Husni) [words indistinct] a person must not give advice in which he does not believe. It appears that Husni has taken it upon himself to say that the Arab man cannot endure in battle more than 24 hours. You may recall that some people used to say it would be a matter of 72 hours. Regardless of anything, [words indistinct] the days and months. This was not the aim [words indistinct]. We were seeking to spare humanity (?further bloodshed). For this reason, we were frank in explaining the facts. We said that our people had [words indistinct]. They believed that dialogue was the way which leads to solutions that would enable humanity to avoid warfare. We said that a person must not delude himself into believing that when war starts it will be a war of hours, days, or weeks.

At any rate, we said that when war begins, a lot of blood will be shed. We also said we did not want this. We have no interest in seeing any world leader getting involved in a war and then miserably failing. Do you remember what the Western leaders, including President Bush, used to say? They used to say that they were going to enter the war without one American suffering injuries. Has this happened? [words indistinct] the war is at its (?beginning). Only 10 days. Is it true that no American has been injured? What will happen if the war [words indistinct]? Therefore those who have miscalculated in this war must alone confront the people's (?questions) and public opinion.

As for the men in Kuwait [words indistinct]. It is not a matter of who has more weapons. The issue is who will be defeated and who will not be defeated; and who has Satan on his side and who has God on his side. Who

crossed thousands of kilometers to come to whose homeland? Who came to occupy the land and sanctities of the other? The answer is clear. Do you believe that the pilots who came to bombard Baghdad, dropping bombs from great heights without knowing where they will fall, were (happy). I saw some of them on the television screen. Of course, those who were killed were more numerous than those who appeared on television. Perhaps you know that it is a natural thing that the ratio of staying alive in such cases is approximately [words indistinct]. When the time comes for you to receive the corpses of your sons you will know [words indistinct]. I asked those who saw them: Did you not ask them if they felt regret for what they had done? They said yes, and when I asked what the answer was they said some of them had wept. Some of them were in bad shape. I do not want to speak of this. (If you now look at) the men manning the antiaircraft guns and fighting against Bush, you will find that each of them is proud of what he has done in defense of Iraq and the values it represents.

Some of them were in positions on which bombs fell like rain, but not a single Iraqi left his antiaircraft gun with which he was confronting the U.S. planes. This was particularly true the first day, the second, the third, and the fourth day. From these examples you may predict the outcome of the duel on the ground, if the aggressive armies attack our valiant men in the 19th governorate. What remains is one question dealing with how matters were before 2 August and after 2 August, until the night of 15 January [word indistinct]. After war broke out on that night of 15 January [as heard], [word indistinct] how can a people of 18 million confront all this massive hostile power with honor? [words indistinct] How will this be? Had this people not been sure of the justice of their cause, they would not have resisted in such circumstances [words indistinct] those who seek the truth should pay attention to such a manifestation. When their attention is drawn to this manifestation, then they will be guided toward the solution through dialogue and not through war. Then, one would be able to discover many, many more facts.

[Arnett] You mentioned dialogue. At what level are you talking about? Is dialogue possible now on this issue? [words indistinct] delay the comprehensive battles should be [word indistinct] sooner or later?

[Saddam] A dialogue, that is to talk with people and not with the U.S. President. I am speaking to you as a citizen. I am speaking about honest dialogue with people and not with the aggressors and the treacherous. As a people, we [words indistinct]. But the evil ones will shoulder the responsibility [words indistinct]. I am speaking about human laws that should govern the relationships among people.

[Arnett] What do you say to governments, to people around the world today who are seeking a peaceful solution? Is it possible? Is there more hope now?

[Saddam] This question should be addressed to Bush by you, the American people. Bush used dialogue as a tactic. You know that we are the ones who proposed dialogue, and he rejected dialogue. He appeared on television suddenly to say that he wants dialogue. We immediately discovered that he had decided on war. His new talk about dialogue is only a cover to say to those who say to him that he has not exhausted the path of dialogue that he has held dialogue and they did not respond. This is exactly what took place, as we have said. All that we have said from 2 August until now has been achieved. Do you remember what we said, that keeping foreigners and not allowing them to travel would prevent the war?

Do you remember what the charlatan Western politicians said? They said that keeping the Westerners and preventing them from traveling would make war happen and that Westerners' travel would not make the war happen. The issue has become clear now. It is now in the past. We do not regret a decision we made because we make decisions only when we are convinced. However, had we kept the 5,000 Westerners and Japanese in Iraq, would Bush have struck Baghdad?

When we made the decision and allowed the Westerners to travel, we were not scared. We were not intimidated by threats from anyone, [words indistinct] because we fear no one. We made the decision out of respect for the opinion of the average citizen rather than that of politicians. So that cards could not be mixed and colors could not be blurred, we decided to allow all to travel so that our battle would not involve a blurred vision or confused cards. However, I referred to this for a reason—to prove to you that certain Western politicians are playing the game of double standards with us [word indistinct] and not the game, the action, or the behavior of statesmen.

[Arnett] [words indistinct] you mentioned several times if the land battle comes, and yet it seems clear from what Western governments in the multinational forces are saying that it is a matter of when the battle comes.

[Saddam] Anyway, the war is going on. So why speak about a ground battle or any other type? The war is going on. Now what has been achieved? Has Bush gained victory? I say that Bush was defeated from the very first moment he signed the decision to wage war. He has created a situation [words indistinct]. I, too [word indistinct] that you are ashamed now, and if I were in your place, I would certainly be ashamed. I am confident that every American now feels ashamed inside himself. And as the war goes on, the shame will turn into pain, and the pain will turn into revolution against those who deceived him. The American is a human being and he asks himself the following questions: Are these the values of the superpower, the United States? Are these the values about which Bush is speaking? [words indistinct] that of mobilizing 29 countries and have his armies cross the Atlantic ocean, the oceans, and the seas to attack a nation of 18 million people? Do you feel now that you still are a superpower? Do you feel that you are a superpower while you hold out your hand to collect

funds for your armies that you have dispatched to attack us, and while the president of the most important superpower boasts that he has come to attack a nation of 18 million? These are the factors that make the [U.S.] Administration internally defeated. The moment it signed the war decision, it was defeated. This made America retreat from the position of a superpower.

[Arnett] [words indistinct] war in Kuwait. How long do you think it will last? And how many casualties [words indistinct] the multinational forces?

[Saddam] God knows how long it will take. But what we are certain of is that the Iraqis will fight in a way that will be admired by the human side of the American personality.

A lot of blood [words indistinct] will be shed. A lot of blood has been shed already. Certainly, the officials who decided to carry out the aggression do not ask how many Iraqis are martyred in that aggression. I was following their statements before the hostile military action. None of the senior officials has expressed his genuine desire to avoid the shedding of Iraqi blood. They deceived their parliaments by saying there would be no American casualties, or that if there were casualties, they would be few. They also said there would be no British or French casualties and that if there were casualties, there would be very few of them. However, when we say that a lot of blood will be shed, we mean French, English, American and, of course Saudi citizens and people's blood—all those taking part in the fighting—and [word indistinct] Iraqi blood.

Do not be deceived once again by the accursed politicians who present the battle to you piecemeal, speaking first of an air battle then telling you to be hopeful and wait until the ground battle takes place. War is war. War has started, and you must count the days, weeks, and months for them and always ask them: Did you not say that the war would last only a few days? Therefore, you have miscalculated, just as you miscalculated before.

[Arnett] You have unconventional weapons like [words indistinct] chemical weapons. Will you use chemical weapons in a land war in Kuwait?

[Saddam] We will use weapons that match those used against us by our enemy. I believe that by now you are [word indistinct] that we have done all we had previously said.

[Arnett] The multinational [word indistinct] said they would not use chemical weapons against you. Would that mean that if they do not use them, you do not use them?

[Saddam] I said that we will use weapons that are equivalent to those used against us. In any case, we will not [word indistinct] Iraq. We will not accept Kuwait to be [penetrated]. Iraq's borders extend from Zakho to the sea.

[Arnett] You have been launching missile attacks against Israel. And as you [word indistinct] to the media [words indistinct] everybody involved in this war.

[Saddam] All the forces raiding Baghdad now are Israeli. [words indistinct] against Baghdad because Zionism, which played in the corridors of the White House pushed [words indistinct]. If it were not for Zionism and its hostility to Arabs, why would America decide to withhold food from the Iraqis five months before the 2 August events? This is the battle of Zionism, but Zionism is fighting us with your blood [words indistinct]. If it is not using some of its weapons now, it is because it wants to [words indistinct] so that it can have the upper hand when the war comes to an end. Zionism [words indistinct]. If it were not for Zionism, you would certainly have not come to occupy the Kaaba and Prophet Muhammad's shrine [words indistinct] and commit aggression against the [word indistinct]. We will not be deceived by [word indistinct]. Therefore, you can certainly admit that we said that if Baghdad were hit, we would strike Tel Aviv. We [words indistinct] Tel Aviv that we know the entire game. We tell them: Leave the land of Jerusalem and stop slaughtering Palestinians. Israel is occupying our land (?in the name of) Arabs. It is occupying the lands of Palestine, the Golan Heights, part of Lebanon. Therefore, Israel is an occupier and an aggressor against Arabs. Therefore, this is our message: The missiles and the causes for [words indistinct].

[Arnett] [words indistinct] chemical warheads [word indistinct] Scud missiles and that [word indistinct] capable [words indistinct] chemical weapons [words indistinct] and even on, say, civilian targets in Saudi Arabia.

[Saddam] [words indistinct] why do you avoid calling things by their proper names? Scud is your own system, which has a range of 270 km. As for this, it is an Iraqi missile called al-Husayn. Its twin brother, al-Abbas, has a range of approximately 1,000 km and we are developing it to be ready for use in the numbers we might need. Some specialists are aware of this [word indistinct].

I do not [words indistinct]. I do not mean the American citizen. However, we can say that [words indistinct]. The major claim is that [words indistinct]. Certainly they will remember the Iraqis now—and they are 18 million [words indistinct] able to fight indefinitely until victory is recorded for good against evil. Do you know (?al- Husayn)?

[Arnett] I know the name of the missile.

[Saddam] I knew [words indistinct]. [laughs]

[Arnett] But I do not know if it has a chemical warhead and if you are prepared to use that against Israel [words indistinct] Saudi Arabia.

[Saddam] It can carry nuclear, chemical, and biological warheads.

[Arnett] [words indistinct] conventional explosions in your missiles so far.

[Saddam] I have said that we use weapons that match those used by the opposite side. We are people who remember the values of our forefathers. [word indistinct] in difficult circumstances, everyone remembers the

values of his ancestors. Despite all that air superiority, we were not shaken. We have not deviated from the concept of balanced conduct. [words indistinct] use conventional warheads.

[Arnett] Can you see an occasion when you would use unconventional warheads in your missiles? Is that coming?

[Saddam] We hope there will be no [words indistinct]. We hope we will not be forced to do the imperative.

[Arnett] [words indistinct] when you [word indistinct] mentioned that your missile [word indistinct] system [words indistinct]. Can you give us any information about the destruction that your nuclear facility has undergone in the bombing?

[Saddam] Do you believe that this is possible? These things [words indistinct] the Americans are now imposing restrictions on you and on news of the soldiers in Saudi Arabia. And they impose [word indistinct] details [words indistinct] on the course of military operations [words indistinct]. And this happens in the country of democracy, as they call it in America. Do you want a dictatorship, as you call Iraq, to divulge such serious secrets? What counts is that the Iraqi man is full of faith. He has faith and is full of self-confidence. He is convinced every hour—with every hour of the fighting he is more convinced, through additional factors, that right is on his side. What they destroy [words indistinct] a strong, faithful, and living people who can give what is more [word indistinct]. No one will donate anything to us to make up for all that has been and will be destroyed. We built that with sleepless nights, patience, perseverance, and sincerity in work. When we say we, we mean all the people of Iraq [words indistinct]. When the Iraqis say we, they mean the citizens, not the leadership.

[Arnett] You said that [words indistinct] the mother of all battles. Every field commander before any battle [words indistinct] has doubts about the outcome of the battle ahead. Do you have any doubts whatsoever that you will win?

[Saddam] Not even one percent. I just want to clarify one thing [words indistinct] when we call it the mother of battles. We are not writing the military history, because the battle has not yet taken place [words indistinct]. Right will win over wrong. We believe that God is on our side. Is there a greater battle than the battle in which the commander is God on one side and Satan on the other side?

See for yourself, America, the superpower; Great Britain—I use the names that you use to describe these countries—and France, a major power. All the powers that possess big weapons along with the countries of dirty money are grouped together against Iraq. With this in mind, can any person not be convinced that God is on our side? [words indistinct] God who made the elephant reach Ka'bah and then ordered it to turn back [words indistinct] is capable of defeating all the armies of the aggressors.

[Arnett] You have invited me, [words indistinct] CNN here to conduct this interview with you. What do you hope [words indistinct] this interview will have on the United States and the world?

[Saddam] [words indistinct] I have said what I believe to be the truth. You tell the Americans that we wish them well and we hope that none of their sons will die. All Iraqis are grateful to all good Americans who demonstrate in the United States against the war and to all good and honorable citizens in France, Germany, Spain, Italy, and everywhere else. We are attentively following this noble level of humanity that opposes the hostile policy that is being made in the corridors influenced by criminal Zionism. All Iraqis, including the children in Iraqi hospitals who have been injured by the bombs dropped on them, are following this attentively. We will continue to distinguish between the evil decision by the administrations influenced by Zionism and the stand adopted by the people of [words indistinct]. Just as we make a pledge to God, our people, the sons of our nation, we also make a pledge to good people in America, Europe, Japan, the USSR, and everywhere else in the world—in the countries described as developed and those called Third World countries—that we will not forget the good people, who will discover day after day that they are right when [words indistinct] against our people and nation.

I am pleased to have met with you. Thank you for having listened with an open mind. [words indistinct] Thank you.

Columnist: Syria's Al-Shar' Voices Israeli Views

NC0502145591 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
1 Feb 91 p 8

[Article by Hasan Tawalibah: "A Typographical Error in the Right Place"]

[Text] Two days ago, AFP carried a statement by Faruq al-Shar'. The agency identified him as Israel's foreign minister. The statement dealt with the aggressive war being waged by the United States and its allies against Iraq and also expressed the views of the Israeli Government and its foreign minister. Al-Shar' said that by shelling the Zionist entity, Iraq was playing a political game but would fail to draw Syria into the war. However, the Israeli foreign minister and his government have decided to retaliate against Iraq in various ways because Iraq's shelling of Tel Aviv and some other cities has turned to be effective and is arousing the anxiety of the Zionists, who have seen the effectiveness of these missiles on the ground. This refutes unblessed Husni Mubarak's cheap acrobatics in claiming that the Iraqi missiles are mere bombs. Anyone taught at the very cheap school of political prostitution fails to learn that any military action is a translation of strategic political goals. Iraq's shelling of the Zionist entity's capital and other cities is a military action designed to achieve a political goal; namely, the retrieval of the Arab right, which was usurped by the Zionists more than four decades ago. But this weak and frightened minister and

his regime fail to understand anything except the policy of agency, delusion, and deception. They do not believe in even the simplest principles of Arabism or manliness. If they had been men and had had human blood coursing through their veins, they would have found in Iraq's principled position a historic opportunity to restore the Golan Heights and liberate it from the yoke of Zionist settlement.

But these hirelings, who have violated the holiest principles, are denying even the simplest Arab values, following the path of treachery and vice. They have preferred to maneuver and fish in murky waters, and are not concerned about the Arab order or the occupied lands in Syria, Lebanon, or Palestine.

They are also ready to secretly deal and ally themselves with the devil himself to remain in power and to preserve their maneuvering and illusive slogans as long as possible to achieve their aims. This is how they maintain their relations with all the Arab countries, relations that are governed by personal interests, selfishness, and hatred. What we have previously said against these people has been proven by the great duel in the mother of battles, which has identified all the agents and suspects and placed them among those who are hostile to the Arab nation's aspirations. Al-Shar' deserves the AFP's description, and although it is a typographical error, it came in the right place.

Columnist Criticizes Neutrality Toward War

JN0602065291 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
1 Feb 91 p 8

[Article by Ya'qub Afram Mansur: "Neutrality Means Failure To Uphold Right"]

[Text] Some Islamic and North African states raised their voices after 17 January, announcing their neutrality in the attack being launched by the evil allied forces against Iraq under the leadership of the United States and with the support of the NATO states, France, and Israel, which is outside NATO. This disgraceful French position will never be forgotten by Iraq, the free Arab people, the world, and France itself.

What is behind those voices that are calling for neutrality? Can there be neutrality at this critical and decisive stage through which both the Arab and Islamic worlds are passing? Can there be neutrality at a time when the forces of tyranny are joining forces to crush the Arab and Islamic nations in the service of the ambitions of the colonialists and Zionists, whose expansionist and covetous plans include Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, the Gulf, and North Africa, as stated by Sharon in January 1981 in an interview with Oryana Valanchi [name as published], an Italian female journalist? This neutrality amounts to plotting against oneself and sentencing oneself to death. This neutrality is like denying one's sanctities and preventing people from opening their eyes to and talking about the current brutality and bloodshed of our brothers in faith, blood, and destiny in the area. It is like

ignoring the overt and covert evil premeditated conspiracies being concocted against the Arabs and Muslims. This neutrality is tantamount to shaking hands with the principal enemies of the nation and religion, Fahd, Husni, and Hafiz, at a time when our sacred and just duty should prompt us to first cut off these sinful hands and their heads because they are the cause of what has happened and is happening in the region. This neutrality is a betrayal of the great cause of the Arabs and Muslims, the liberation of Jerusalem and the retrieval of the Palestinian people's rights. Such liberation cannot be achieved through neutrality but through actual participation in the form of money and men. This neutrality is a contribution to undermining the sweeping revolution designed to repulse Zionist tyranny and the new colonialist expansion. It is like sitting back with folded arms and watching the tragedies of aggression and the fall of victims. It is like brandishing a sword and only waving it in the air without using it to chop off the evil, rigid, infidel, and failed heads.

Cursed be their allegations that are aimed at weakening determination and extinguishing the torch. Woe to those who fail to support right under the current critical, fateful circumstances and woe to those who refrain from helping the soldiers of right through participating in the mother of battles and saving themselves from the curse of history and the wrath of their peoples. No to neutrality and yes to a sweeping campaign of jihad.

'World Majority' United Against Imperialists

NC0602085491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0707 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Western media allied with the U.S. Satan are trying to convince international public opinion that American and Zionist forces and their allies are defending right and international law, that the world is united with the forces of invasion and aggression, and that international public opinion subscribes to the actions of these forces against the children of our people.

Western and agent radio stations try to downplay the effectiveness of the action mounted by the gathering of believers against the interests of imperialists and their allies around the world. True, the jihad action is targeted at the interests of the United States, Britain, France, Italy, and Saudi Arabia [word indistinct] various damage. [word indistinct] expresses the support of believers in the Muslim world and the honorable around the world for Iraq, the leader of the believing gathering, as it takes on the forces of coercion, evil, and aggression against our sanctities, resources, [words indistinct].

[Words indistinct] commando action against the interests of the forces of occupation means the world majority being united against the world imperialist minority. It means a rejection of this minority's scheme to establish a world order tailored to suit Bush. It means the yearning toward the establishment of a world order based on

justice, right, and [word indistinct]—an order that abhors humiliation and enslavement, and that comes to the aid of the poor and the victimized who have despaired of the promises of the major imperialist powers to solve their problems for them. These have found in the call for jihad made by the leader of the believing gathering—the victorious Saddam Husayn—the path that should rid them of all their suffering and torment and prepare for them [words indistinct] and put them along with fellow human beings on the road [word indistinct] the new world order sought by all humanity.

The jihad actions mounted by good Muslims against the imperialist interests will escalate each day and will significantly advance the interests of jihad and thwart the imperialist schemes and [words indistinct] Bush. We salute the believing mujahidin as they take a stand against the enemies of humanity, and the arms that tackle the imperialist interests. God is great, and victory will be the lot of the believing mujahidin.

Commentary Calls Bush 'Liar,' Threatens 'Revenge'

NC0602120391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk within "Comments on the News" program]

[Text] Is it not a shame that the president of the strongest country in the world is a liar? In his news conference yesterday, George Bush was told: There is an organized destruction of Iraq's infrastructure going on that deviates from the UN resolutions. He impudently denied it and said: I did not order the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure. We are only trying to prevent them from supplying their war machine and military forces.

This is what Bush said, but the world knows today that Bush is lying, involved in contradictions, and trying to (?deceive) international public opinion, which has become critical Bush and his administration's violation of the rules and norms of war and the Security Council resolution, which was in form and substance a purely American resolution.

The air and missile raids against Iraq targeted all the scientific, economic, and cultural installations, went beyond that to target medical installations, places of worship, and sacred sites, and went even further in their criminality to hit residential areas, killing defenseless civilians and pedestrians in the streets, and destroying cars being driven on the highways.

If this is not organized destruction of Iraq's infrastructure and murder in its basic forms, then what is it? Bush was asked this question repeatedly, but each time he lied, maneuvered, answered briefly, or changed the subject to avoid embarrassment and evade the answer. The fact is that Bush knows well that what he wants is to destroy Iraq and eliminate all the cultural and scientific accomplishments made by the Iraqi people in the past decades.

Bush, who is angered by the Iraqi people's steadfastness, cohesion, and adherence to their national rights, and their defense of the Arab nation's rights and the Muslims' sacred places, wants revenge against this people using the most barbaric methods, in a bid to humiliate them, break their pride, and make them an example for any free people with an independent mind and will.

What Bush, his pilots, allies, and agents are doing is what they had threatened Iraq with, both in secret and public, and what Bush repeatedly said in threatening language. It is also what his Secretary of State James Baker and Defense Secretary Dick Cheney repeated before him on various occasions. They want to expel Iraq from the twentieth century, as James Baker once said.

However, let those criminal rascals know that they are not weighty enough to achieve their goal. They might destroy the material bases of life in Iraq and they might destroy scientific, economic, and cultural installations, but they will not be able to destroy the Iraqi creative mind. They can murder women, children, and the elderly, but they will not be able to uproot the [word indistinct] of the Iraqi people. They can deny the Iraqi people some elements of welfare and life for some time, but they will not be able to break its independent and free will.

The Iraqi people are greater and stronger, and will outlast all those who are trying to break their pride. All the criminals, and all those who supported them or remained silent over their crimes will certainly come and go, but the Iraqi people, with their great history, long-standing glory, steel will, and enormous capacity for life and the renewal of its material and spiritual bases, will remain.

What those barbarians are destroying will be rebuilt. What they are destroying is nothing but the price of the freedom we want, the dignity we cling to, the sacred places we defend, and the land we liberate from the invaders and the occupiers.

What remains is for Bush and his accomplices in crime to understand that they are personally responsible for their crime. The Iraqi people will pursue them for this crime, even if they leave office and disappear into oblivion. There is no doubt that they will understand what we mean if they know what revenge means to the Arabs.

'Historical Call' Said To Mark End of Al Sa'ud

NC0602163791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT
6 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasizes that the current showdown will mark the beginning of the end of criminal Fahd and the depravities of the Sa'ud family just as the day of the historical call marked the beginning of the end of the Croesus family and their evacuation from the chaste land of Iraq—Kuwait.

In today's editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the American-Zionist aggression imposed on great Iraq has uncovered all the cards of Fahd, the traitor of the two holy mosques. It has revealed his meanness and the extent of the hatred he harbors for the Iraqi and Palestinian people, as well as for the Arab and Islamic nations in all their countries.

The paper adds that the days elapsed since the aggression have revealed the full dimensions of the evil alliance's foreign military presence, for it soon transpired that the pretext of protecting Saudi Arabia against a possible Iraqi offensive was only a cover for launching the biggest and most ferocious barbaric aggression on Iraq, the Iraq of renaissance and development which represents a model for the Arab nation and a solid strength for the Arab and Muslim millions, ready to confront all the imperialist and Zionist schemes designed to impose colonialist hegemony on the destinies and resources of the Arabs and Muslims.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the traitor Saudi ruler has confirmed that he is one of the tools of the aggression and that he is full of malevolence regarding any Arab chance to confront the forces of injustice, oppression, and persecution. He is a bag of depravities walking the earth, the paper adds.

The paper says that the traitor of the two holy mosques and the members of his family, who are colluding in this great conspiracy have, by their base role, burned all their cards [words indistinct].

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: If one of the virtues of the mother of battles, which is led by struggler President Saddam Husayn and whose banner is borne by the Iraqi people who stand in the forefront, is that it has exposed the treasonous reality of the malevolent Fahd, then this decisive historical showdown between the trench of faith and the trench of atheism will mark the beginning of the end of this criminal and of the evils and depravities of the Sa'ud family.

Editorial Asserts Definite Victory Coming

NC0602162891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT
6 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—AL-'IRAQ states that all the elements needed for the confirmed victory are present in the brave Iraqi Army.

It adds that the reason for this goes back to a number of highly influential factors which guarantee definite victory. These are the justice of the cause Iraq is defending,

a capable and victorious leader, a comprehensive strategy whose vision extends into all the factors needed to use all the elements of general mobilization for the sake of victory, and numerical superiority which tips the balance of the struggle in favor of Iraq and makes victory its clear ally.

The newspaper further says in today's editorial that these factors do not only give the Iraqi Armed Forces an advantage but enable them to perform heroically during the war and terrorize the ranks of the aggressive forces. This description befits the known bravery of the Iraqi Armed Forces and the resulting unswerving courage to realize victory over the enemies.

AL-'IRAQ explains that the Iraqi Army, which has shattered the enemy's theory based on the idea of a swift war and burned the wager on [words indistinct], is in the right position to inflict a shaming defeat on the aggressors. In the great battle, this Army will undoubtedly wrench victory by surprising the enemy, concentrating efforts, coordinating all weaponry, and taking control of the situation, initiatives, and speed of action.

It goes on to say: Surely these factors guarantee the comprehensive unity between weapons and equipment on the one hand, and their proper use on the other hand, in addition to providing the bases for command and control as well as its requirements such as means and ways to bolster the effectiveness of the fighting and rise to the specific [word indistinct].

The paper says that the Iraqi Army, which history can vouch for as the only Arab army that has not yet tasted defeat, will record in history that the victory of the mother of battles is the great epic that will stir up the pride of the Arab nation and the admiration of the world.

The newspaper stresses that the great Iraqi Army will make the dogs of war, released by Bush from the barrels of guns, equipment, and other tools of war, understand that their destiny will be nothing less than death, imprisonment, or escape.

It adds that the day of the great battle is definitely coming. Iraq's heroes, on whom the national and pan-Arab hopes are pinned, and even humanitarian hopes, continue to have the winning wager because they are fighting for justice, values, and firm principles, and because they definitely know that the trees of the homeland are always watered by water and blood.

AL-'IRAQ concludes that definite victory is coming; there is no doubt about that.

Knesset Approves Ze'evi's Inclusion in Government

TA0502173891 *Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Feb 91*

[Telephone conversation between moderator Shlomo Raz in the studio and correspondent in the Knesset Ze'ev Kohen—live]

[Excerpts] [Raz] A few minutes ago the Knesset approved the inclusion of Rehav'am Ze'evi in the government with a majority of 61 to 54 votes. The Knesset discussed the issue for over four hours.

[Kohen] The vote was 61 in favor and 54 against; Binyamin Begin voted against; Ministers David Levi and Ehud Olmert absented themselves from the hall. Thus, Knesset Member [MK] Ze'evi was sworn in as minister. [passage omitted]

The turmoil in the Knesset has not subsided yet. Immediately after the swearing-in ceremony, MK's Tamar Gozansky and Muhammad Naffa' of HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] pulled out a huge yellow Star of David [which Jews were forced to wear by the Nazis] and hollered: Racists! The speaker banned the mention of the Holocaust in this context, and an uproar ensued at the end of which both MK's were expelled from the hall.

[Raz] Could you tell us what the reaction of the Likud to Begin's move is? How does the Likud react to the fact that two cabinet members, Deputy Prime Minister Levi and Minister Olmert, did not come to the Knesset at all?

[Kohen] The chairperson of the Likud Knesset faction said she would not punish MK Begin. The sanction against an MK who does not abide by coalition discipline usually is to deny him the right to address the Knesset. Well then, the Likud does not plan to punish MK Begin, and he will be allowed to make speeches, seeing that the Likud regards him as a gifted orator. [passage omitted]

Knesset Passes Law on National Security Team

TA0602015191 *Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2200 GMT 5 Feb 91*

[Text] The Knesset this evening passed, in a third reading, a draft resolution submitted by Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin, whereby the prime minister will set up a team to provide him with constant professional counsel on national security. This law also regulates the work of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. MK Beni Begin told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen that Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi, whose name was mentioned as head of this advisory team, will not be able to lead the team, because the position in question is not a ministerial one.

Further Reportage on Security Zone Shellings**Katyushas Fired 5 Feb, IDF Returns Fire**

TA0602092391 *Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Feb 91*

[Text] Several Katyusha rockets were fired last night at the eastern sector of the south Lebanese security zone. There were no casualties.

Our correspondents Hayim Hecht and Menahem Horowitz have learned from the local UN contingent that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] artillery fired back in the direction of terrorist targets in the Tuffah area, north of the security zone.

Lebanese Army troops are scheduled to begin deploying north of the security zone today. Our army affairs correspondent reports that Syria, which supports the deployment, is expected to take action to dislodge the Fatah troops from their positions in the area.

Shomron on Air Force Raid

TA0502135691 *Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1310 GMT 5 Feb 91*

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe—recorded]

[Text] Israel's responses in south Lebanon have not changed, and we will continue to hit terrorists who threaten Israel's citizens, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron stated today. Today we used the Air Force, just as whenever our northern citizens have been threatened we have used other means.

[Shomron] As we have noted before, at least the organization he commands—namely, Fatah—has been personally ordered by 'Arafat to stage attacks against Israel, including the firing of Katyusha rockets. There are quite a few authentic Lebanese citizens who want to try to prevent this, because they realize the danger it entails for the entire population of south Lebanon, but 'Arafat's orders are to go on attacking Israel. That is why the Air Force today raided targets such as bases and command posts which serve as departure points and planning centers, and have also in the past served to fire katyushas and stage other attacks on Israel.

We know that 'Arafat's personal orders to go on firing katyushas are still in effect; we know the Air Force scored accurate hits; we know there were casualties—and that is all we know at this point.

[Menashe] The chief of staff added: I hope the inhabitants of south Lebanon realize that for their own good they had better not let the Palestinians turn Lebanon into a combat zone.

[Shomron] They know what damage can be inflicted on them since they have been there before, so they had better see to it that the terrorists do not succeed in once again turning the area into a combat zone.

[Menashe] As for developments in west Iraq, the chief of staff said the missile launchers are being hunted night and day, but the threat persists. We must maintain the same level of alert we have maintained thus far, even if Saddam Husayn's capability is gradually being eroded.

Gen. Shomron then proceeded to comment on the possibility that Iraq may launch missiles outfitted with chemical warheads.

[Shomron] I do not know what Saddam Husayn's considerations are. I would say though that we are, at the least, apprehensive that if he reaches the point where he finds himself pushed into a corner he might resort to nonconventional weapons. Israel does not respond automatically. Israel has a good capability not just to respond, but also to hit that which endangers it. At the same time, Israel is not a country that responds automatically, but a country that calculates its moves.

Air Raid Meant as Answer to 'Arafat

TA0502113591 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF
Radio Network in Hebrew 1105 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, has said that it must be made clear to 'Arafat that he cannot launch katyushas at Israel in order to assist Saddam Husayn and expect his people to remain unharmed in Lebanon.

[Begin Nave recording] We have recently witnessed several attempts by 'Arafat's Fatah to shell our northern border. There were a number of katyusha shellings, aimed at hitting Israeli civilians in the north. The issue here is Yasir 'Arafat, who has supported Saddam Husayn not only through declarations, but is also trying to make a real contribution to the Iraqi ruler in the war by hitting our people in the north and by attempting to ignite the mood in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. He has not succeeded. Today's air attack on 'Arafat's Fatah bases is our answer. If Yasir 'Arafat believes he can attack Israel and thereby assist Saddam Husayn and come out unscathed, he is mistaken. [end recording]

Dani Nave called on the public to remain alert, even if we are now hearing about U.S. successes in the battlefield.

[Begin Nave recording] The last few nights were relatively quiet, and the U.S. activity in west Iraq has achieved results in the sense that missile launchers have been damaged and the ability of Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi Army to operate launchers in west Iraq has declined. That is certainly good news, but the danger has not yet passed, and we must remember that. [end recording]

Nave urged the public not to dismiss civil defense orders and to carry around gas masks at all times.

German Parliamentary Delegation Meets Officials

Shamir Warns Against Compromise With Iraq

TA0502115691 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF
Radio Network in Hebrew 1105 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said a short time ago that there must be no compromises with Iraq; its military might must be destroyed, otherwise Middle East peace will continue to be endangered. The prime minister made these remarks to a visiting German parliamentary delegation. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman brings us Shamir's remarks:

Dr. Rita Suessmuth, the president of the Bundestag, conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levi in Jerusalem today. In his talks with the German visitor, the prime minister warned against any attempt to compromise with Iraq. Any interim move, any attempt to reach a compromise without destroying Iraq's military might will continue to endanger peaceful life in the Middle East, and we must avoid taking such a path, the prime minister stressed. He said Israel views such tendencies in certain European states with concern.

Foreign Minister David Levi explained at length to the visitors the Israeli Government's feelings about the fact that German firms armed Iraq. Levi told Suessmuth: Imagine a grandmother, a Holocaust survivor, when she sees her grandchildren wearing gas masks to defend themselves against German gas. The visitor sat quietly and listened. The foreign minister stressed that Israel's anger was directed mainly at German firms and not at the German Government.

[Begin Levi recording] We must see it in the correct context, not as atonement for something the government did. If we thought that the German Government was behind the arming of Saddam Husayn in order to attack Israel, then what I am saying would be totally irrelevant. [end recording]

The prime minister also commented on that issue: We know that such actions were performed by certain circles in the German arms industry; however, the German Government did not properly supervise the activity.

German Arms Deals Criticized

LD0502120491 Hamburg DPA in German 1111 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Jerusalem (DPA)—The Lower House deputation led by Lower House President Rita Suessmuth met on Tuesday, the second day of its visit to Israel, for a brief exchange of views with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Suessmuth repeated Bonn's determination to prevent in the future illegal arms deals by German firms, and to punish severely those found guilty. Afterward the German guests were received for a courtesy visit by State President Hayim Herzog. The head of state once again

criticized the failure of the western world to have recognized in time the threat posed by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Frau Suessmuth had to listen to particularly strong complaints from Foreign Minister David Levi. It was learned from his office that he only blames the Bonn Government of "complicity" in the illegal arms deals by German firms with Baghdad. "If we could be certain that the German Government carries the main responsibility then we would have broken off diplomatic relations (with Bonn) long ago." This morning Suessmuth laid a wreath at the Yad Vashem national Holocaust memorial. The delegation is to meet Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek this afternoon.

Arens Meets Delegation

TA0502120891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 5 Feb 91 p 10

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Moshe Arens told a top-level German parliamentary delegation yesterday that "Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn could never have developed his war machine to such a degree without the aid he got from the democratic countries who armed him to the teeth."

Addressing a Bundestag delegation headed by its president, Prof. Rita Suessmuth, Arens said: "I hope the European states have understood it at long last. After Saddam threatened to liquidate half of Israel in April 1990, I called in the ambassadors of all the friendly nations to warn them of the danger.

"I was foreign minister at the time. I was disappointed because my warning was not taken seriously.

"I hope that when this crisis is over, Europe will realize the new realities in the region and continue to show the same awareness they feel today."

Arens, when asked what Israel expected of Germany, replied: "In the short-term, consideration for the heavy economic burden which the war has imposed on us. In the long term, political support.

"There is no need to convince us of the need to move towards peace. It is not Israel's fault that Egypt is the only Arab state to have signed a peace treaty with us."

Suessmuth said: "Most Germans condemn Saddam's attacks against Israeli civilians, and want to help Israel defend itself. All factions in the Bundestag, I believe, see it as their obligation to punish the criminals who helped develop Iraq's war machine in the past, and to prevent such aid again being extended in the future in the development of weapons of mass destruction."

She noted that the European Community already had plans to supply economic aid, and said it was also possible that Germany would act on its own to help Israel set up new economic projects.

"Germany sees no linkage whatsoever between the invasion of Kuwait and the Israel-Palestine dispute," Suessmuth said. [passage omitted]

Group Head Rejects PLO Role in Talks

LD0502173991 Hamburg DPA in German 1629 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Jerusalem (DPA)—Bundestag President Rita Suessmuth says the PLO is now out of the question as a partner in talks seeking a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. After completing her talks in Jerusalem today, Mrs. Suessmuth said: "The PLO as a partner in the talks was not an issue for our side or the other side because the PLO has discredited itself as a partner in the talks." [passage omitted]

Mrs. Suessmuth admitted that German-Israeli relations suffered severe damage due to events in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

However, Mrs. Suessmuth appeared optimistic, saying that "the low in (Israeli) public opinion can be overcome." German firm's trade with Iraq and reports about the activity of neo-Nazis in Germany had a "more disastrous effect than is believed in Germany." However, all partners in her talks welcomed the German delegation's visit.

Shamir Said Planning Nisim-Moda'i Reshuffle

TA0502141191 Tel Aviv YEDYOT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 5 Feb 91 p 2

[Report by Arye Avneri]

[Text] Senior Likud circles maintain that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir may soon reshuffle his cabinet. Thus, Industry and Trade Minister Moshe Nisim will be appointed finance minister, while Yitzhaq Moda'i will be offered the Industry and Trade Ministry.

According to these sources, the prime minister would prefer that Nisim serve as finance minister during the period following the Gulf war and that he take action to renew economic growth with the help of foreign monies—whether in the form of grants, loans, or private investments.

These circles further contend that in anticipation of the next elections the prime minister wants the Treasury to be manned by a Likud member who will enjoy full support from the prime minister and the other Likud ministers. Shamir expects Moda'i, who once seceded from the Likud, to increase antagonism and conflicts within the Likud, which will play into the hands of the Alignment.

Left-Wing Parties Support 'Policy of Restraint'

TA0402204691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] The leaders of the three left-wing opposition Knesset factions: The CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], MAPAM

[United Workers Party], and Shinuy continue to support the government's policy of restraint toward the war in the Gulf and regarding the attacks on Israel. Knesset Members Shulamit Aloni from the CRM, Ya'ir Tzaban from MAPAM, and Amnon Rubinstein from Shinuy met this evening with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for a discussion of issues pertaining to the war.

Possibility of Upgrading German Patriots Examined

TA0402184791 Jerusalem Domestic Service
in English 1800 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Israel is looking into whether the PAC-1 Patriot antiaircraft systems it is to get from Germany can be upgraded to PAC-2 antimissile systems like those it has received from the United States. This was revealed tonight by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman, Brigadier General Nahman Shay, during a press conference with foreign journalists. Brig. Shay also said that although a number of Iraqi planes have left that country, the Iraqi Air Force still maintains an aerial capacity and, so, Israel's Air Force remains on a high alert.

[Begin Shay recording] The IDF is still in a high state of alert which includes the Air Force and the air defense. I mentioned to you that Iraq suffered as a result of those ongoing attacks on its Air Force, but it still maintains an aerial capacity and they may try to infiltrate Israeli airspace with their aircraft. So, it means that the Israeli Air Force should keep a high state of alert for the time being.

When it comes to our air defense, you are familiar with the Patriot missiles. I know that every night you watch the neighborhood to see whether more Patriot missiles have been launched or not. We do have quite a number of those batteries in Israel now. Some of them are manned by Americans, some of them are manned by Americans and Israelis, some of them are manned only by Israel. Since yesterday we also see the German airlift bringing to Israel a number of Hawk and Patriot missiles in order to increase our ability in that area of air defense.

The IDF is ready to take any action to stop the launching of missiles into Israel. There is no doubt that we have the capability. The decision will be made by the Government of Israel, not by the IDF. [end recording]

Dailies View Cheney Remarks on Nuclear Option

HADASHOT Finds Comments 'Puzzling'

TA0402114491 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
4 Feb 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Stop Waving the Mushroom"]

[Text] Despite the magic of the "hold me back or else" posture, one should keep the truly big stick behind one's back, because all the talk sounds idle and unmenacing, even though the threat is implicit. Without addressing the question of whether Israel should or should not exercise its nuclear option if and when attacked with

chemical weapons, it is important to refrain from uttering threats implying such a reaction.

The explicit remarks made recently by U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney about the possibility of Israel using nonconventional weapons in reaction to a chemical attack are puzzling. Does the United States expect Israel to do the dirty work in the Gulf war? Is it convenient for the United States to depict Israel as a besieged country with a nervous finger on the nuclear trigger, whose reaction, in the case of an attack, will be extreme? If the United States wishes to make threats about employing nuclear means in reaction, it should speak in first person singular.

Such talk should be avoided. The very threat of using nuclear weapons is liable to erode Israel's conventional deterrence and to generate I.O.U.'s whose defrayal is complicated and dangerous. The drawing of an automatic chain of reaction serves no purpose: While it is doubtful that it will deter Saddam Husayn, it will legitimize the drive of lunatics such as al-Qadhdhafi to procure and threaten with nuclear weapons. In this case, the gun must remain in the drawer rather than in full view of the microphones. It is there that it is most effective.

HA'ARETZ on Understanding Israeli Position

TA0402103391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
4 Feb 91 p A1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Nonconventional Warning on Behalf on Israel"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney's warning that Israel is liable to resort to nonconventional weapons if Iraq launches a chemical attack against it—a statement that was not accompanied by an appeal to Israel not to exercise this option—can be regarded as an indication that Washington understands the possibility that under serious circumstances, Israel will have difficulty refraining from a harsh reaction.

Cheney's declaration is significant in principle, and it constitutes an extraordinary precedent, although nothing was said directly. His remarks were preceded by another declaration—one made by John Sununu, the White House chief of staff—which has greatly perturbed Israel. Sununu said, among other things, that the United States will refrain from using nuclear weapons even if Iraq resorts to chemical warfare against U.S. troops. Saddam Husayn could have understood from this that he will be taking no great risk in employing chemical weapons. Israel, whose population has been on the receiving end of Saddam Husayn's threats about chemical weaponry, was worried by Sununu's remarks.

Therefore, Cheney's statement should be seen as an amendment to Sununu's remarks. One can presume that his statement was well thought out and carefully considered before it was uttered. Several of its points are noteworthy:

- The warning was not made on behalf of Washington. Although Cheney specified the danger, his remarks implied an indirect threat in Israel's name.
- The U.S. secretary of defense confirmed indirectly that Israel has the capability of implementing a non-conventional option.
- While Cheney warned Saddam Husayn against resorting to chemical weapons, he neither directed a warning to Israel nor expressed concern about the possibility that Israel will implement the nonconventional option in retaliation for a chemical attack. These remarks do not constitute a green light, but they imply deep understanding of the dangers Israel may face and of the fact that it is liable to resort to an extreme reaction in its attempt to defend itself.

Arens Meets Territories Notables on Restrictions

TA0402124191 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has promised public representatives from the territories to take steps to alleviate the burden on the population, provided the eased conditions do not result in disturbances or acts of terrorism. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Minister Arens made these remarks in a meeting with mayors and notables, who spoke of the distress of the territories residents resulting from the prolonged curfew. Pointing out that these difficulties are a direct outcome of the Gulf war, he described the reaction of Israelis to the expressions of joy in the territories after Scud missiles fell in Israel.

Knesset Member [MK] Shulamit Aloni is demanding that curfews be gradually lifted in the territories, because the present situation can lead to a very violent outbreak. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that in an urgent motion for the agenda, CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] MK Aloni says that after 20 days of curfew, some of the residents have reached a state of hunger.

[Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 4 February, in a report by Arye Gus, says that "for the past week, the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) has been gradually extending the periods between curfews. In the first stage, the curfew was completely lifted from the Gaza Strip's agricultural areas, except for nighttime hours." The idea is "to lift the curfew during the daytime and to allow the resumption of commercial and economic activities in the territories, while leaving the night curfew in effect out of security considerations. In the next stage, the authorities will look into the possibility of allowing residents of the territories to leave for work in Israel in a supervised manner."]

Territories Curfew Eased; Illegal Immigration Noted

TA0502153591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Feb 91 p A1

[Report by Yizhar Be'er, Eytan Rabin, and ITIM]

[Text] The curfew over large segments of the rural areas of the West Bank has already been lifted, but the locals may only move from one village to another; they are not permitted to leave the area. In the rural areas, farmers are allowed to till their land uninterrupted and life has almost returned to normal, except for difficulties in delivering the produce to the markets. In the towns and the refugee camps, the curfew remains in force for the third week running, and the economic situation is worsening.

The defense establishment has resisted pressure to lift the curfew and allow the employees to go back to work in Israel. Security elements fear that lifting the curfew and the entry of laborers into Israel will lead to a wave of PLO-inspired terrorism.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens yesterday met with mayors and notables from the West Bank. He said that Israel regretted the support for Saddam Husayn demonstrated by some Palestinians. He claimed that there is a desire to ease the locals' plight, provided that this does not lead to riots.

The curfew in most places in the Gaza Strip has been observed and only a few demonstrations were recorded. The military government lifted the curfew from Gaza City and the Dayr al-Balah and Jabalyah Refugee Camps for a few hours yesterday to permit the inhabitants to buy food. UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] continued to distribute gas masks, flour, and powdered milk.

During the break in the curfew, approximately 40 youths who support the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine called for support for Saddam. They were dispersed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers.

[Ehud Rabinowitz, reporting on page A7 of the 5 February issue of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew, says that "defense sources estimate that dozens of families from the territories have crossed the Green Line in the past few days following the fall of the Scuds across the Green Line, to settle in the Galilee Triangle. The focal point for this illegal immigration is al-Tayyibah, which has, in the past few years, turned into a 'safehaven' for inhabitants of the territories, mainly for people suspected of collaboration with the authorities."

[The report adds that the mayor of al-Tayyibah believes "more than 1,000" residents of the territories are staying in town, occupying "any vacant shed or room." He stressed that "it was they, not the local residents," who called for violence during the recent demonstrations. "Dozens of families" have reportedly managed to sneak into al-Tayyibah and other Triangle villages "in the past few days" despite the curfew in the territories. Some said they were afraid of the missile attacks, but "most said they did that because of the shortage of food and the inability to go to work. Security sources have reported that the fact that the phenomenon is becoming more widespread constitutes a security risk and that tension between the local populace and the 'visitors' was discernible in several settlements."]

Situation in Territories Under Curfew Noted

TA0202031891

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 1 February in a page A6 report by army affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin reports that "the defense establishment has authorized UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] to distribute food to the residents of the Gaza Strip. This is the first time that the defense establishment has allowed UNRWA to overstep its mandate, which rules that UNRWA can only assist residents of the refugee camps.

"In recent days, UNRWA's management has asked the defense establishment to permit it to also distribute food to the residents of the larger cities and not just of the refugee camps. After some discussion, the defense establishment decided to give an affirmative response. According to the plan, the organization will distribute quantities of food to the large municipalities in the Gaza Strip and to the local authorities. The food will be handed out to the needy in coordination with the Civil Administration."

The report adds that "a senior UNRWA official arrived in Israel several days ago. The official has received the cooperation of the defense establishment. It has also been decided that after UNRWA concludes the distribution of the gas masks donated by Sweden and Canada to UNRWA's Arab employees, they will distribute the rest to Arab residents unconnected to UNRWA. This will also be in conjunction with the Civil Administration."

A similar HA'ARETZ report by Yizhar Be'er on the same page adds that "over the past two days there have been increasing complaints both inside and outside the territories about the continuing curfew and the damage it is causing the economy in the territories. Officials from the Nabulus Chamber of Commerce, as well as municipal and public sector employees, appealed to the defense minister yesterday, for the second time in the past 48 hours, and demanded an immediate lifting of the curfew, in light of the deterioration in the economic situation.

"In the appeal, a copy of which was also sent to UNRWA, officials belonging to the 'national institutions' in Nabulus complained that the Civil Administration was still collecting taxes over the current period and especially at night."

The report notes that "members of the 'There is a Limit' movement decided, after holding a debate on the political situation, to resume their weekly protest marches, while stressing the ramifications of the prolonged curfew in the territories, which the movement described as 'an action bordering on a war crime,' which is accompanied by clearly illegal activities that soldiers are required by law to refuse to carry out.

"The center for human rights in East Jerusalem yesterday demanded that the defense minister lift the curfew that it termed 'state terror.'"

Yizhar Be'er writes that "the center has recently received reports of many harvests in the Jordan Rift Valley that have spoiled due to neglect, of shortages in animal feed, and of the inability to tend vineyards and fruit tree orchards. Many doctors have not received permission to enter villages in the various districts and to give medical assistance in the Janin and Ramallah Districts. Only 32 percent of employees in al-Ittihad Hospital received permission to work. Hospital staff from al-Maqasid, Saint John, and Augusta Victoria hospitals, who live in the territories, were not allowed to leave for work. It was reported that the workers at al-'Alami agricultural farm in the Jordan Rift Valley recently had to destroy a great part of their produce, including milk and milk products, because they could not market them in the territories, which are currently under curfew.

"One of the signs of the crisis currently afflicting the Palestinian economy in the territories, because of the continuing curfew, has recently been manifested in the wholesale marketing of agricultural produce at below-cost prices to Israeli companies—instead of exporting them abroad."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in a page A6 report by Lili Galili reports that "the society of Israeli-Palestinian physicians for human rights has warned of an increasing risk to the lives of seriously ill Palestinians in the territories, as a result of the new regulations that were imposed since the curfew began two weeks ago. Because of difficulties in reaching the hospital posed by the curfew to patients in need of sophisticated medical equipment, the occupancy rate in al-Maqasid Hospital has dropped to approximately 50 percent and other hospitals in the capital are almost empty of Palestinians. This situation prevents the adequate treatment of cancer victims and dialysis patients, who cannot receive alternate treatment in their villages in the territories."

The report also notes that "the lack of ambulances in the territories, which now constitute the only vehicle for transporting patients, and the cost of the trip, prevent the Palestinian populace from seeking the necessary treatment," adding that "another complaint deals with the number of gas masks distributed to the medical staff and patients in hospitals in East Jerusalem and the territories. Al-Maqasid Hospital, which normally holds approximately 700 employees and 250 patients, received only 250 gas masks.

"Until now, only about 25,000 residents of the territories have received gas masks, and most of these were suited for people over the age of 15. This puts psychological pressure on the parents whose children do not have gas masks."

In a report by Yizhar Be'er and ITIM on the same page, HA'ARETZ reports that "three Palestinian youths were injured by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire yesterday during an operation to capture wanted men in Buruqin

village in the Janin District," explaining that "during the operation the troops were attacked with stones and responded by shooting."

HA'ARETZ notes that "yesterday, the curfew was lifted in Nabulus for six consecutive hours. Residents from neighboring villages complained that when the curfew is lifted in Nabulus, they remain under curfew and cannot take care of their agricultural produce, which spoils. The curfew was also lifted for three hours in the Tulkarm area."

The report points out that "two Arab residents were slightly injured by rubber bullets in Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip during disturbances, which started when the IDF removed the curfew for several hours in order to permit the residents to stock up on provisions. Quiet was maintained in the other places where the curfew was lifted (the Jabalyah, and al-Nusayrat refugee camps and certain Gaza neighborhoods). The curfew has been completely lifted in the village of Bayt Lahiyah in the northern part of the Gaza Strip, except for a night curfew. This was the custom before the Gulf war broke out. The Civil Administration permits villagers in Bayt Lahiyah and other agricultural areas to till their fields and plantations.

"The dire economic situation in the Gaza Strip is a source of concern for local leaders. Eleven Gaza Strip notables yesterday met with the head of the Civil Administration in the Strip and asked that the curfew be removed and that the residents be permitted to leave for work and bring in money. They asserted that the Strip's residents had incurred losses of over \$40 million because of the lengthy curfew that was imposed on them. Among the personages that met with Brigadier General Ramot were As'ad al-Saftawi, Farih Abu-Mudin, the head of the Gaza Bar Association, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Red Crescent, and Mansur al-Shawwa, the son of the late Gaza mayor Rashad al-Shawwa."

Territories' Laborers To Return to Work 'Soon'

TA0402231191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 2200 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Laborers from the territories will be allowed to return to work in Israel soon, according to Brigadier General Freddy Zakh, deputy coordinator of government activities in the territories. The exact date has not yet been determined, but the workers will probably be taken by organized transportation from the residential areas to their workplaces and back. They will not be allowed to stay in Israel overnight.

Our correspondent in the territories Amir Hay reports that Palestinian organizations in Nabulus today asked the Pope to use his influence on Israel to make it immediately lift the curfew it imposed on the territories.

Today, 18 residents of the territories were detained by the defense forces. They are suspected of terrorist activities and attempts to incite the residents to violate the curfew.

Arabs from the territories today addressed the Center for a Good Eretz Yisra'el, expressing their willingness to donate blood for the Israeli victims of missiles. They even offered to donate work days, if they are needed. Our correspondent in the territories reports that they asked to remain anonymous for fear of being hurt.

Change in Territorial Concepts After War Viewed

TA0302132791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
3 Feb 91 p B1

[Commentary by Yosef Alper, "deputy head of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University"]

[Excerpts] Remember the "48-hour war" (1982) and "Sharm al-Shaykh is better than peace" (of the 1970's)? There is nothing like the events of war and peace to shatter and refute concepts and strategic theses that guide policies. [passage omitted]

Several well-rooted Israeli concepts have already been refuted. For the past several years, "Jordan is Palestine" has been a slogan favored by right-wing circles and several well-known representatives of the left. Nevertheless, almost from day one of the tenure of the current government, in June 1990, Shamir, Levi, and Arens realized that the power of the Iraqi threat made Jordan an essential barrier between us and Iraq. As a result, a Hashemite kingdom on our eastern border—with all of its problems—is preferable to us over a Palestinian regime. In other words, even if some strategic advantages could be found in reaching an arrangement with 'Arafat in Amman, the Iraqi threat is a more immediate and existential strategic problem than the Palestinian threat, which calls for a reevaluation of the pragmatic advantages of the continuation of the king's rule.

Another of our misconceptions was the belief that our best defense is deterrence based on our aerial assault ability. This concept has guided defense elements, mainly in the Air Force, to object to large investments in research, development, and procurement in terms of active defense (the Arrow project), or even passive defense (shelters). These elements recommended that, instead, investments should be made in purchasing additional assault planes and so on. Now it becomes apparent that they have overlooked a situation we are witnessing today, in which we have to fence ourselves in as a result of political necessity. Now, after the Patriots, no one will oppose the continued development of the Arrow.

The concept that the territories provide us with strategic depth was proven wrong as well. In a war against al-Husayn missiles and perhaps long-range bombers, the territories are merely a burden to ongoing security. [passage omitted]

It is possible that another Israeli concept is about to be shattered in the coming few months. This is the concept according to which the combination of the Palestinian outburst of hatred against us and their support for Saddam, coupled with the improvement in our strategic

relations with the United States following our willingness to show restraint, guarantees an improvement of our position concerning the U.S. involvement in the political process after the war.

Whoever entertains this thought is ignoring the deep U.S. commitment—created when the Gulf war started—to return and redouble its efforts to deal with the Palestinian issue, once the fighting stops. They will perhaps not insist that we talk to the PLO and its spokesmen; who knows, they might even prefer King Husayn, if he is smart enough to remain quiet for the next couple of months; but they will still demand that we stop the settlement drive and prepare to give up the territories. It should be expected that once the war is over, Jerusalem's policy of restraint will not be adopted in Washington when it comes to solving the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Palestinian Position on Gulf War Discussed

TA0102200191 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR (HOTAM supplement) in Hebrew 1 Feb 91 p 10

[Interview with AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah by 'Oded Lifshitz; date, place not given]

[Text] [Lifshitz] Palestinians stand on rooftops cheering Saddam Husayn.

[Sinyurah] Most stories about Palestinians cheering from the rooftops while missiles fly over their heads are bullshit. Palestinians fear for their lives, and they lock themselves up in their houses and sealed rooms.

[Lifshitz] Even those who are afraid of missiles can support Saddam Husayn....

[Sinyurah] It must be stated outright that the Palestinians are not on the same side as the Israelis. To us you are an occupying government, and the intifadah did not break out because of the love between us. Had there been a peace process, Palestinians may have reacted differently to the war and the missiles. They feel that all the attempts to arrive at a political solution have failed. Shamir has rejected even the U.S. initiative. Many believe and hope Saddam Husayn will succeed in budging the grounded political boat, that a linkage will be established so that as soon as the war is over, and concurrently with the negotiations on a solution of the Gulf crisis, negotiations should also start on a solution to the Palestinian problem. Today, too, most Palestinians believe in two countries, and not in the annihilation of Israel.

[Lifshitz] One would think the Gulf war could promote peace between Israel and the Palestinians without Palestinians supporting missile attacks on civilian population centers in Israel....

[Sinyurah] One should not forget who is to blame for the war. Saddam Husayn bears some of the blame, but one

must not forget the role played by Bush and other leaders. The missiles and bombs hit Tel Aviv, Riyadh, and Iraqi cities.

[Lifshitz] There is a difference: Saudi Arabia and Iraq are directly involved in the war, while Israel is not.

[Sinyurah] Everybody knows that through the missile attacks on Israel, Saddam Husayn wants to involve Israel in the war. I do not condone attacks on civilians, not even on Israeli civilians.

[Lifshitz] Are you surprised that Shamir has not retaliated for the missile attacks?

[Sinyurah] He is making the most of it. Shamir's shrewdness should not be taken lightly.

[Lifshitz] Do you really think this is shrewd?

[Sinyurah] It prevents the collapse of the anti-Saddam coalition.

[Lifshitz] What are the lessons of the war at this stage?

[Sinyurah] That even a strong army cannot guarantee the welfare of civilians if there is no peace. Today more than ever, greater efforts should be made for the sake of peace between Israel and the Palestinians and to overcome the feelings of hostility. We, both Palestinians and Israelis, must reach a solution entailing two states and, in addition, a common economic community.

[Lifshitz] What will happen to 'Arafat and to the PLO's current leadership in the wake of their support for Saddam Husayn?

[Sinyurah] That leadership has for the last four years tried to achieve peace, and it rejected neither Mubarak's nor Baker's initiative. The gates of peace were shut by Shamir, Levi, Sharon, Moda'i, and the entire Likud.

[Lifshitz] That is not a direct answer. We can perhaps understand why the Palestinian man-in-the-street, who has been frustrated by Israel's occupation, supports Saddam Husayn, but we expect the leadership to assume responsibility for the results of supporting the Iraqi option.

[Sinyurah] It is true that the PLO leadership did not condemn Iraq when it invaded Kuwait. You have always argued that, had the Soviet Union not severed diplomatic relations with Israel after the occupation of the territories in 1967, and had it not constantly denounced Israel, it could have had a positive effect on Israel's policy. By the same token, if 'Arafat had condemned Iraq, he would have lost the ability to influence Iraq's policy. He accepted the UN and Arab League resolutions and immediately after the invasion he came out with an initiative that includes a withdrawal from Kuwait. That is enough.

[Lifshitz] In your opinion, how will the PLO's positions affect the future of its relations with prominent Arab members of the multinational coalition, such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria?

[Sinyurah] At the moment, those relations are in a sorry state, and they will have to be restored. This will be a tough job, but it is possible. Egypt was kicked out of the Arab League because of its peace treaty with Israel, but it has now been reaccepted as a member. Foreign intervention is unnecessary. Foreigners intervened in Lebanon and created chaos in that country for dozens of years. The solution was found by three Arab countries—Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Algiers—and was embraced by the international community.

'Arafat's proposal to find an Arab solution to the Kuwait problem will ultimately be embraced, and 'Arafat will once again be popular. Mediators are not popular....

[Lifshitz] Is he a mediator or does he support Saddam Husayn?

[Sinyurah] The Palestinians cannot have disputes with any Arab country.

[Lifshitz] Will this war hasten the peace process with the Palestinians?

[Sinyurah] I hope so; otherwise another war will break out. This war is over oil. The next war would be over water resources. The destruction would continue and the situation would become more complicated. By not intervening in the war Israel has corrected some of the mistakes it made in the past. I believe that after the war stability in the region will top the world's list of priorities, and a peaceful solution will be sought.

Elementary Schools Open in Most Regions

TA0502120091 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 5 Feb 91 p 1

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Excerpts] It's back to school today for children in most of the country, as HAGA [Civil Defense] yesterday

approved the opening of elementary schools everywhere except for most of the Tel Aviv (Alef) and Haifa (Bet) regions, and the lower grades in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

The Education Ministry also received approval to reopen pre-kindergartens and kindergartens tomorrow in the northern (Dalet) and southern (Vav) regions, while those in the Jerusalem (Gimmel) and central (Heh) regions will likely reopen Thursday.

Phones will be placed within days in all the pre-kindergartens and kindergartens as a safety measure, after the Treasury approved funding for the project, Education Minister Zvulun Hammer said yesterday. Only 20 percent of these centers presently have phones, despite a Knesset order over a year ago for phones to be put immediately in all schools.

The ministry did not act until now because funding was not available for the phones, Education Ministry spokeswoman Tova Azulay said.

Junior high schools and high schools throughout the country are open as of this morning. Elementary schools, however, are fully open only in the southern (Vav), central (Heh) and northern (Dalet) regions.

In Jerusalem city, only fifth and sixth grade classes will be open today, while in the rest of the Jerusalem (Gimmel) region, all grades will be open. Tomorrow, third and fourth graders return to school in the capital, and Thursday, first and second graders. [passage omitted]

Schools everywhere should be open by either the end of the week or early next week, according to Azulay.

Children must bring gas masks with them to school, in accordance with HAGA guidelines, the ministry emphasized. School staffs have been expanded and volunteers brought in to ensure that enough adults are available to help the children in the event civil defense sirens are sounded.

U.S. Embassy Officer's Car Set on Fire

NC0502162591 Paris AFP in English 1612 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, Feb 5 (AFP)—A car belonging to the U.S. military attache in Jordan was set ablaze here Tuesday by unknown assailants who had first doused it with gasoline, informed sources said.

The U.S. embassy spokesman told Agence France-Presse that an incident had occurred involving an official embassy car but did not specify if it was that of the military attache, Colonel Donald Dubay.

He said there were no casualties and that Jordanian authorities were investigating.

Club To Auction U.S. Aircraft Fragment for Iraq

JN0602095391

[Editorial Report] Amman Arabic dailies AL-DUSTUR, AL-RA'Y, and SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic publish the following back-page advertisement in their 6 February issue: "An unusual public auction. It pleases the management of the al-Wahdat Club to announce the sale by auction of a fragment of the wing of a hostile U.S. aircraft that was destroyed by the valiant Iraqi Army defenses in the battle of heroism and honor, the mother of battles. The fragment to be auctioned was presented to the club in appreciation of its persevering efforts to enhance Iraq's steadfastness. The auction will be held in the club's hall at 1800 on Thursday, 7 February 1991. Proceeds will be used to purchase milk for the children of proud Iraq. The ambassadors of the coalition states are exempted from participating in the auction."

The above advertisement does not appear in 6 February issue of the English-language paper JORDAN TIMES.

Badran Says Oil To Continue To Come From Iraq

NC0502155291 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Statement by Prime Minister Mudar Badran at a meeting with heads of the municipal and rural councils in Jordan at the al-Husayn Sports City on 5 February—recorded]

[Excerpt] We have been working day and night for five months to secure all supplies for the people. We did secure these supplies. We were working to secure oil products when we were surprised to see the Tapline supply line cut. It was a difficult test for us and a surprise, because we did not expect it. For, when any government employee or any person, even among you, wants to make a deal he writes a contract. He would not expect the other party to break the contract and refuse to honor it. If this does not happen among individuals, it should not happen among states. So, what happened, and why? It is because Jordan has an opinion on the matter, and a sound opinion. And by the way, it is not directed against anybody. Our opinion was not directed

against Egypt, Saudi Arabia, or anybody else. Our opinion is that there must be an Arab solution for this issue, that is all. Is this a crime? And that no foreign troops should enter Arab lands. Is this a crime? This is our opinion. So what is happening is not right. There are designs over this oil, which has become an affliction and not a blessing. They returned to take these treasures as they used to do in past centuries. We in this country, as his majesty the supreme commander has declared in this respect [words indistinct] our policy is clear beyond any ambiguity or mystery. We are against a foreign presence on Arab land. This is a fundamental rule over which there can be no improvisation. It is as clear as the sun. For that reason, we are being besieged. Our trucks are being bombarded en route because they are carrying oil. Now they say: You are violating the UN resolution. No, we did not violate it. We asked and told them that we did not have any oil route other than this one and that we would continue to use it to transport oil until you, the Security Council, found an alternative, in accordance with your charter or conditions. We were told to continue until we secured oil for you. To date nothing has been secured. Now, it is up to the Security Council to secure oil for us. Do you think I like to send trucks, approximately 700 or 800 tankers, and risk Jordanian citizens to this bombardment, death, and destruction? No, I do not.

However, oil will continue to come from Baghdad. [applause, cheers] This is the people's will which we will absolutely not abandon. They bombarded the first day, so we told the brother drivers, this is a service to the homeland. So they gathered, more than on the first day, and travelled and brought the oil. But when the road is bombed [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Views Aim of War

NC0502193191 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has stressed that the war planned and conducted by major states, which shut all doors to peaceful and diplomatic moves and efforts, aims to destroy Iraq's power.

Speaking during a meeting at the al-Husayn Sports City today with heads of the municipal and rural councils throughout the kingdom, Badran said Iraq is standing fast, thanks to its people, army, and leadership, and is absolutely determined to win. This determination is not based on hopes or daydreams, but on deeds, work, and efforts.

The prime minister reviewed Jordan's good offices under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn to avert the crisis. He also reviewed Jordan's efforts to contain the crisis and to seek an Arab solution. He referred to Iraq's response to his majesty's efforts at the beginning of the crisis. However, obstacles were placed in the way of the march of peace, and foreign intervention to implement what had been planned became obvious. We felt that there was a conspiracy against this nation, he added.

He urged all citizens to carry out their national duties, adding they would all be trained in the activities of the Popular Army, which comes next in line to our valiant Armed Forces. We will stand fast on our noble land and beloved country with all the strength we have. We will prove to the world that Jordan is hard to get.

Oil Tanker Purchase; Team in Syria for Oil Talks

JN0602085491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
6 Feb 91 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Cabinet Tuesday decided to buy an oil tanker with a 100,000-tonne capacity, an official said.

The official said the Council of Ministers at its regular meeting endorsed spending \$7.5 million to buy the tanker, expected at al-'Aqabah by the end of the month.

Jordan, has adopted fuel-saving measures and considered alternative suppliers to replenish stocks depleted by the decline in Iraqi supply.

Seven tanker drivers have been killed and 31 tankers destroyed in air raids on the main Baghdad-Amman Highway in allied raids.

A Jordanian team is holding talks in Damascus to buy Syrian oil at market rates—about \$4 a barrel more than the notional \$16.40 dollars for Iraqi oil.

Oil Tanker Protection From Attack Outlined

JN0602091491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
6 Feb 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan is not aware of any instance where Iraq mingled military equipment with Jordanian civilian convoys, but the Kingdom has taken every precaution to ensure that no Jordanian national or vehicle could be involved or implicated in such charges made by the United States, a senior Jordanian official said Tuesday.

Jordan has also sought clarifications from the U.S. State Department about remarks made Monday which implied that allied air attacks on Jordanian tankers inside Iraqi territory were unavoidable since Iraq was resorting to transporting military equipment mixed with civilian convoys, the official told the Jordan Times.

The foreign minister, Tahir al-Masri, has met with the American ambassador Roger Harrison, and sought clarifications over the statement, said the official, who was speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The (State Department) statement is unclear," said the official. "In any event, we have adopted measures to ensure that no Jordanian national or vehicle would be involved or implicated in such charges," he said.

The authorities have instructed Jordanian drivers to make sure that their vehicles are easily distinguishable as civilian and not to travel in convoys, the official explained.

"We have also instructed them to travel only during daytime," he added. This precaution came in response to assertions by unidentified American military sources in Saudi Arabia that it was "impossible to distinguish between military and civilian vehicles, especially at night."

The latest State Department remarks, made by spokeswoman Margaret Tutweiler, appeared to be in response to the anger and indignation that several attacks on Jordanian tankers in the past week have drawn in Jordan.

"These vehicles are travelling through a war zone, and specifically, through an area that has been the source of Scud missile attacks against neighbouring states," Ms. Tutweiler said.

"While we seek to minimise... damage in our operations, this is made difficult by Iraq's policy of co-locating military and civilian targets," she contended. "It is difficult when materiel that is in trucks is co-mingled with civilian material."

In a terse statement issued earlier, Ms. Tutweiler implied that the tankers could be attacked since Washington saw them as violating the international embargo on Iraq since they were carrying Iraqi oil to Jordan.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and other senior officials have rejected the contention, pointing out that Jordan had secured an oral consent from the U.N. Sanctions Committee for continued imports of oil from Iraq until suitable alternatives were found.

But, in her statement Monday, Ms. Tutweiler maintained that the committee had not granted Jordan such an exemption. At the same time, she said, the U.S. believes Jordan has complied with U.N. sanctions, including oil. "There was no immediate explanation to the apparent contradiction in statements.

Furthermore, Ms. Tutweiler also said that the allied aircraft mounting attacks on Iraq and Kuwait were not seeking to "enforce the embargo on Iraq."

"Though these (Iraqi) oil exports (to Jordan) do violate the sanctions, it is not coalition policy to attack civilian trucks exporting petroleum to Jordan," she maintained.

But eyewitness accounts from travellers on the main Baghdad-Amman highway indicate otherwise. Many have reported witnessing concerted attacks by lowflying aircraft not only on oil tankers but also other civilian vehicles.

In some instances, there were also definite indicators that some of the oil tankers were machinegunned contrary to the American suggestion that they were caught in the bombing raids on suspect military vehicles.

Security officials and transport industry sources said trucks going into Iraq were also attacked last week, killing at least one Indian driver and wounding at least three others.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said as many as 31 oil tankers were attacked last week. He said seven people were killed and 11 others were injured in the raids.

Another justification aired by American officials is that there was no way of knowing whether the oil tankers were bound for Jordan or Iraqi military bases in western Iraq.

But Jordanian experts familiar with the geography of the area pointed out that some of the attacks had taken place in an 80-kilometre stretch of road between the Iraqi border post of Tirbil and the town of al-Rutbah, in an area where the road leads nowhere else but Jordan.

"There may or may not be Iraqi bases in the vicinity, but the fact remains no road exists in the area which could take heavy oil tankers," said one expert. "There are only desert tracks through which no tanker can manoeuvre. There can be little doubt that the Americans know this."

Palestinian Arrivals Claim Scuds 'Accurate'

NC0502153491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] Arrivals from occupied Palestine have said that the Iraqi al-Husayn missiles scored accurate hits despite the Zionist military spokesman's denial. A number of arrivals in Jordan have told AL-DUSTUR that the Iraq's missiles hit the Zionist nuclear reactor north of Tel Aviv and the residential quarter of the enemy's ministers and his senior officials.

The arrivals added that the al-Husayn missiles accurately hit a warplanes factory and destroyed a technical institute [word indistinct] in Haifa.

Evacuees Call Amman-Baghdad Road 'Death Trap'

NC0502172491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
5 Feb 91 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P. V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The arrival of Asian refugees from across the border remained at a bare minimum for the second day running Monday as the main road between Baghdad and the border was described as a death trap in view of the renewed air bombardment by allied forces waging war on Iraq.

Less than 400 people, including a few Jordanians, had crossed the al-Ruwayshid border as the day drew to a close, and border officials said many of them reported running a "gauntlet" from the Iraqi capital to the frontier as jetfighters and bombers flew repeated sorties.

Among the arrivals were about 100 Indian construction workers from Basra, Iraq's southernmost city, who

reported total devastation of shopping areas, residential districts and government buildings alike.

According to an Indian refugee who arrived Sunday, the bombings were "totally indiscriminate."

"They are hitting everywhere," he said. "Even mosques with their distinct minarets and schools are pulverised."

Most of the arrivals said they drove at night from Baghdad without switching on the main lights of their vehicles in a bid to escape the attention of planes.

Some travellers also reported low-flying aircraft attacking with machineguns.

Security sources said a body of a non-Jordanian killed in one of the attacks was brought into Jordan Monday, but there was no immediate means to establish the identity of the deceased.

Diplomatic sources said they were not aware that the body could be that of an Asian who was killed when the truck he was driving was bombed last week.

Meanwhile, about 3,150 evacuees, including about 420 seeking political asylum in a third country, remained in Jordan awaiting flights out arranged by the International Organisation of Migration (IOM). The figures included about 400, who were scheduled to be flown home Monday.

Among the remaining were 1,246 Sudanese, 685 Egyptians, 45 Moroccans and 30 Philippine nationals as well as 233 of various other nationalities in addition to 393 Somalis and a group of Iranians. The Somalis and Iranians are seeking help from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for political asylum, but most of the Somalis are expected to leave for home soon in view of the toppling of the regime of Mohamed Siad Barre whom they opposed.

IOM figures showed that 11,762 people—mostly Asians and Arab Africans—have been repatriated through the organisation between Jan. 18 and Feb. 3.

With the departure late Sunday of an Aeroflot chartered flight carrying about 300 Indians to Bombay, the number of Asians shrunk to six—three Sri Lankans and three Pakistanis. It was not immediately known why the six did not leave on the Aeroflot flight to Bombay, from where they could have taken homeward flights on regular airlines.

According to an official statement from the department of borders of the Public Security Directorate, a total of 1,175 people—705 of them Jordanian, 892 other Arab nationals and 118 non-Arabs arrived through the border post at al-Ruwayshid Sunday.

The statement said 125 travellers—101 Jordanians, 23 Arabs and one non-Arab left for Iraq through al-Ruwayshid on the same day.

King Receives PLO Envoy, 'Arafat Message*NC0502213091 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 5 Feb 91*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Information Department, at the Royal Hashemite Court. 'Abd-Rabbuh conveyed to his majesty a message from his brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, concerning the war in the Gulf and the conditions of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Youth Union Head Says Nation 'Red Line' for Iraq*JN0602111391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
6 Feb 91 p 8*

[By Maha Qatawinah]

[Text] Amman—Quoting an Iraqi official, colleague Hamadah Fara'inah, member of the Executive Committee of the Jordanian National Youth Union and official spokesman of the union, has stressed that Jordan constitutes a red line for the Iraqis, and that if Israel attacks Jordan, Iraq will reply to this aggression by using mass destruction weapons.

At a press conference held yesterday at the office of deputy Mansur Sayf-al-Din Murad, chairman of the Jordanian National Youth Union, during which he spoke about his meetings with Iraqi officials and popular figures following a 5-day solidarity visit to fraternal Iraq, colleague Fara'inah added that the extensive air raids to which the fraternal Iraqi people have been exposed since the outbreak of war by America and its allies have failed to achieve their major objective of destroying the valiant Iraqi Army and the Iraqi military institutions, which are the Iraqi people's tools to deter the aggressors and achieve victory.

Colleague Fara'inah stressed that Iraq still possesses the strategic military capabilities such as the anti-aircraft defenses, air weapons, and tanks. It also possesses the al-Husayn and al-'Abid missile launching pads. He said that Iraq is capable of absorbing the extensive air raids that are being carried out by the American-Atlantic planes and missiles, and that the air raids on Iraqi residential areas were not arbitrary, but premeditated systematic attacks aimed at destroying the Iraqis' morale, but which is a double-edged weapon that is being used to affect the Iraqi people and Iraqi leadership.

Colleague Fara'inah reviewed his visits to Iraqi hospitals, during which he visited those wounded in the American bombardment. He said that most of the wounded were children, old people, and women. He also visited sites that had been bombarded and destroyed. He met with Sa'di Mahdi Salih, Iraqi National Assembly

speaker and Revolution Command Council member, who stressed that the Iraqis have no choice but to defeat the aggressors, and that there will be no compromise with the aggressors on the homeland's freedom and independence.

Colleague Fara'inah pointed out that the stone-throwing children's intifadah has taught the Iraqis a lesson in resisting supremacy and technology with a strong human will. This is a reference to the fact that the Palestinians were able to resist the occupiers with stones and therefore, the Iraqi people, with their determination and will, can not only resist the American-Atlantic-Zionist alliance, but also defeat it.

He said that Iraq is currently without electricity, water, and communications services. However, this did not affect the military institutions and the army because these have their own communications that are separate from civilian communications.

Israeli Measures Said Tantamount to Deportation*NC0502171091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
5 Feb 91 p 3*

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Israel's restrictions on Palestinians crossing into the occupied territories from Jordan via the King Husayn and Prince Muhammad bridges have been increased lately, depriving many of the right to return to their homeland, according to Dr Ahmad Qatanani, head of the Foreign Ministry's department of Palestinian affairs.

Qatanani told the Jordan Times that between Jan. 21 and 31 a total of 438 people were admitted across the King Husayn bridge and 350 across the Prince Muhammad bridge, while in the same period the Israelis allowed 650 to leave the Palestinian territories across the King Husayn bridge and 699 across the Prince Muhammad bridge.

It is clear that the number of those leaving the occupied territories have been almost double those entering, Qatanani noted.

Furthermore, many of the Palestinians with special permits and recognised by the occupation forces as inhabitants of the occupied territories have been turned back several times, and their permits have now expired rendering it impossible for them to ever return to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Qatanani added.

He said the Israeli measures are tantamount to mass deportation of the Palestinian people.

We have daily instances of people turned back, and we received many complaints from the public, while we maintain intensive contacts with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other U.N. agencies to restore normal procedures across the bridges, Qatanani said. But, he added: "We have received no favourable reply from the other side."

Reuter news agency Monday quoted Interior Ministry Secretary General Salamah Hammad as saying that the Israelis on Monday allowed only seven people to cross the King Husayn bridge and turned back 57 others.

He said 27 people, most of them elderly men and women, were allowed to cross the Prince Muhammad bridge, but 30 others were barred entry.

Qatanani confirmed the figures, and said his department receives daily bulletins from the bridges about the situation there.

Before the Gulf war began on Jan. 17, an average of about 200 people a day were allowed across the King Husayn bridge and 1,200 on the Damiyah bridge, but over the past two weeks the Israeli authorities were allowing only 50 people to cross at each bridge for what they have been claiming as part of the security measure in the occupied territories which have been subjected to a blanket curfew, now in its 18th day.

According to Qatanani, most of those returning to Palestine came from Kuwait and the Gulf.

Ze'evi Appointment Indicates Israeli Plans

JN0602103091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
6 Feb 91 p 18

[By 'Abdallah al-Qaq]

[Text] In a statement to AL-DUSTUR yesterday, a responsible source said that appointing Rehav'am Ze'evi as minister in the Israeli cabinet indicates the extent of the repressive and brutal measures the Israeli Government plans to carry out against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories. The source added that this appointment comes at a time when the Palestinians are subjected to an overall curfew, in addition to other restrictions.

What is noteworthy is that Ze'evi supports the idea of expelling the Palestinians from the West Bank.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that the Foreign Ministry has informed 'Abdallah Salah, Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations to raise this issue at international forums and to brief the UN officials of the Zionist authorities' inhuman and repressive actions against the Palestinians.

AL-DUSTUR also learned that there is broad coordination between the Jordanian Government and the PLO to put an end to these Israeli practices through the international quarters.

The responsible source said that other Israeli plans are aimed at increasing pressure on the Arab citizens, particularly after the arrest of Dr. Sari Nusaybah, a professor at the B'ir Zayt University, and the detention of a number of Palestinian trade unionists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Paramilitary Force Along Borders Armed Before War

NC0502165391 Paris AFP in English 1536 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, Feb 5 (AFP)—Jordan distributed arms to members of its paramilitary force living near the country's borders before the Gulf war erupted January 17, militia commander Brigadier Ghazi al-Tayyib disclosed Tuesday.

"The people living near the borders feel threatened," he told reporters. "We've distributed some weapons to members of the paramilitary army living near the frontiers.

"When I say borders, I mean all the borders," he insisted when asked if they also meant the frontier between Jordan and Iraq.

Jordan is also bounded by Israel, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Earlier in Tel Aviv, Israeli military sources said Jordan's King Husayn had ordered the distribution of arms, mainly Kalashnikov assault rifles, in towns near the Jordan River and along the ceasefire line with Israel.

The state of alert among Israeli forces, who patrol the border 24 hours a day, had been raised.

An AFP correspondent in Israel reported that Jordanian troops could be seen strengthening defensive positions on the east bank of the river, which is barely 10 meters (yards) wide.

An Israeli patrol on January 30 shot dead an armed man in a military uniform who had cut through border fencing and crossed the ceasefire line near the Damiyah bridge. A second man who had been with him managed to escape.

Brig. al-Tayyib said weapons had been handed out "before the start of hostilities" in the Gulf pitting Iraq against a U.S.-led coalition and confirmed that they were mainly AK-47s.

The militia, created in 1985, comprises 250,000 troops from both sexes and is led and organized by officers from the regular army. It has access to 50,000 rifles and machine guns, he said.

Some 360,000 volunteers have come forward since the start of the Gulf war but only 150,000 have undergone military training.

"It's not a militia," Brig. al-Tayyib insisted. "The members of the paramilitary force act under the orders of their command. If their superiors from the regular army ask them to turn in their weapons at depots at night, they do it."

He said the troops only kept the arms if they were so ordered.

Editorial Urges Setting 'Whole Region Ablaze'*NC050222791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Feb 91
pp 1, 13***[Editorial: "We Will Only Reciprocate Their Grudge"]**

[Text] If the results of the opinion polls in the United States, Britain, and France are true, this will simply mean that the Americans, the British, and the French have decided to wage a war against Iraq and the Arab and Islamic nations and that going to war was a popular rather than a political decision. Although we know for sure that these surveys are false and are part of attempts by Washington, London, and Paris to find a justification and a cover for the war, the insistence on presenting the American, British, and the French peoples as enemies of the Arabs and Muslims is dangerous because it constitutes a clear call from the leaders of the colonialist alliance to make every American, British, French, and Italian citizen a target of the wrath, grudges, and vengeance of millions of Arabs and Muslims, who will avenge the targeting of Iraq's children, elderly, and women by the racist alliance, which is dropping thousands of its destructive shells on them.

The game of the Western opinion poll surveys is a dangerous one because it is designed to increase hatred and grudges among nations and to encroach on human passion, when all people should live in security, justice, and safety. When the American vice president threatens Iraq with nuclear weapons, when senior officials in Washington, London, and Paris continue to make statements threatening to destroy Iraq's territory and people, and when opinion polls indicate that the American, British, and French peoples have approved this racist official trend, no one has the right to accuse Arabs and Muslims of terrorism for their decision to confront hatred with hatred, grudges with grudges, killing with killing, terrorism with jihad, and attempts to destroy the Arabs and Muslims and harm their religion, nationality, and pride with seeking victory or martyrdom. Also, no one in Washington, London, or Paris has the right to continue to warn against transferring the war outside its arena. As the Americans, British, and French claim this war is an expression of popular will, it cannot be confronted only by anger over the aggressive action being taken and the brutal crimes being committed against Iraq. Nor can it be confronted by sorrow, pain, and denunciation. Hence, a step should be taken to set the whole region ablaze and to spread the holy war outside it until God accomplishes what was already enacted and until the American killers and their allies stop their endeavor to enslave us, plunder our wealth, and turn us

into a humiliated nation. Let every one be cautious. This is not the war but is the first battle in the holy war which will consume everything.

UN Urged To Stop Israeli Acts on Palestinians*JN0602070991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
4 Feb 91 pp 1, 14***[Editorial: "One and a Half Million Detainees"]**

[Text] While attention is drawn to developments of the Gulf war, and while Arab and international attention is focused on the successive military and political developments in the region, Israel has been detaining one and a half million Palestinians in their homes since the beginning of the war, thus turning the West Bank and Gaza Strip into a big prison.

Although 18 days have passed on this unjust repressive action, during which interests and work have continued to be disrupted and houses and streets closed, it is hard to find anyone who pays any attention to this terrible ordeal or who warns against its continuation, especially since Israel plans to continue to implement this policy until it decides otherwise.

It is clear that Israel, that has adopted this policy for fabricated security reasons and considerations, is now trying to take revenge on the Palestinian people and to repress them socially and economically, with the aim not only of quelling the intifadah, but also suppressing the inflamed feelings of the Palestinians under occupation, who have begun to see for themselves the signs of the Israeli fear and terror following the continuation of the Iraqi missile attacks.

Israel, that is now acting away from the eyes of the world public opinion, this is without saying in the absence of its conscience, would do anything to continue its vengeful policy, particularly after the advocates of the policy of transfer have recently assumed power in Israel, and after some Arab officials have announced the establishment of a kind of alliance with the Jewish state and some other officials have extended financial aid to it through the American mediator.

In light of this, we call on the UN Security Council, which previously promised to secure some protection for the Palestinian people, to take action to stop the policy of mass punishment that is being carried out against one and a half million Palestinians. We also call on the UN secretary general to exercise some of his moral duties regarding this humanitarian crisis so that we will not think that the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general have become employees of the United States.

Explosion Reported Near Egyptian-Lebanese Bank

NC0502231291 Paris AFP in English 2238 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Beirut, Feb 5 (AFP)—A dynamite charge exploded here Tuesday night in front of a joint Lebanese-Egyptian bank resulting in no casualties but causing damage to the building and surrounding area, police said.

They said the blast occurred at the Misr et Liban bank in the working class al-Mazra'ah neighborhood, which is under Syrian control.

It was believed to be the 15th attack here against the interests of one of the countries participating in the anti-Iraq coalition since the Gulf war began January 17 and the second targeting an Egyptian concern.

A dynamite charge exploded January 21 near the Egyptian embassy in Beirut.

Previous attacks on allied interests have left one person dead and two wounded.

SLA Commander on Army Deployment, Palestinians

NC0502155991 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], who welcomed the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the south to end the state of instability, has said that this army will come under fire if rockets continue to be fired on the border zone. He said any rocket fire will be answered in kind. He advised the army units scheduled to be deployed in the south to stay away from fedayeen positions so they will not come under retaliatory shelling, as he put it.

Moreover, Gen. Lahd said the disbanding of the militias will be pointless as long as the Palestinian armed presence continues.

Ja'ja' Doubts Army Can Make Decisions in South

NC0602075591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has urged the state to heed the background of and the consequences that could result from the Army's dispatch to the South.

In an interview with AL-DIYAR newspaper, he said the Army units will either be deployed in the South effectively, and the authority in the region will truly be in the hands of the Lebanese state, or these units will deploy alongside the Lebanese and the non-Lebanese armed organizations present there.

Ja'ja' described the Army dispatch to the South as a folkloric step which will not lead to the restoration of the authority there. He added: Let us not delude the people

into thinking that 2,000 soldiers could make the decisions in the South. He said this step will create an additional problem instead of resolving a chronic problem. He said, however, he would agree to call this step a plan to disengage Amal and Hizballah gunmen if it were really within this context.

Ja'ja' added: We are not against the dispatch of the Army. I believe that either it is dispatched seriously or not at all. Unfortunately, he added, the current government cannot implement Resolution 425, because it does not inspire confidence and lacks the domestic, Arab, and international backing needed to implement it. Ja'ja' noted that there are two currents in the South: The first supports the deployment visibly, and the second rejects it, also visibly. This means that the atmosphere is not ready and that the plan is not well prepared, he added.

Lebanese Army Arrives in Al-Zahrani; To Deploy

NC0602112491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Text] The Lebanese army force, which arrived in al-Zahrani at 1000 today, is preparing to deploy in the al-Zahrani and al-Nabatiyah areas. A meeting was held in al-Zahrani among the force's officers and commanders, chaired by the commander of the southern military area Staff Brigadier General Qasim Tibnini. He asserted that the plan is 200 percent successful, adding that the forces will be gathered and that the deployment in al-Nabatiyah will take place today and in Tyre and Iqlim al-Tuffah tomorrow.

The arrival of the Lebanese Army in Sidon coincided with heavy overflights by Israeli warplanes over the east Sidon and camps areas.

Last night, five katyusha rockets were fired at the security zone. The Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army returned the fire with artillery shells at the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

Further on Casualties in South; Renewed Shelling

NC0502155591 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Extreme tension prevails in the areas east of Sidon and in Iqlim al-Tuffah following the Israeli air raids against pro-'Arafat Palestinian positions. While work continues to remove the debris in the targeted areas, there are conflicting reports on the number of casualties. REUTER has reported that seven were killed and 25 wounded, but security sources said 10 were killed and 16 wounded in the raids. [passage omitted]

Israeli war planes conducted mock raids over the areas east of Sidon this afternoon. In the meantime, the villages of Humin, 'Arab Salim, Jba', Wadi B'anqudin, Baysur, Jabal Safi, and Mlikh came under shelling from the positions of the Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army.

Reportage on Saudi Foreign Minister's Visit

Prince Sa'ud Arrives 5 Feb

LD0502173191 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1702 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] The foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, arrived in Damascus today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was welcomed at the airport by the Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Syrian Foreign Ministry officials, the ambassador of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Damascus Ahmad al-Kuhaymi, and by embassy staff.

His Royal Highness made a statement to journalists at the airport in which he said that the visit is for consultation on the current situation and continued coordination between the two countries, and to bolster bilateral relations in the political, economic, and cultural fields, to set up a bilateral Saudi-Syrian committee, and to foster the special relations between the two countries.

Delivers Statement; Meets Al-Asad

NC0502173191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Damascus, 5 Feb (SANA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Damascus today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the heads of the Foreign Ministry Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments, the Saudi ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

Prince al-Faysal told SANA that the objective behind his visit to Damascus is to hold consultations on current conditions in the region and to go on with the continuing coordination between the two countries. He added that the visit basically falls within the context of bilateral relations. He said the two countries recently held talks to improve relations and set up a bilateral committee to take care of the special relation between the two countries.

Prince al-Faysal concluded his statement by saying: Today, we hope to sign the agreement to set up the joint committee to regulate our relations in all fields: political, economic, cultural, and social.

President Hafiz al-Asad received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at 1700 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended.

Delivers Message From Fahd

NC0502213791 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2115 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at 1700 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus also attended the meeting.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal conveyed to the president a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The president asked him to convey a reply message. The discussion focused on developments in the Gulf and bilateral relations.

Coordination Committee Formed

LD0602024891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0132 GMT
6 Feb 91

[Text] Damascus, 5 Feb (SPA)—An agreement for the formation of a bilateral coordination committee in the political, economic, and social fields between the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and the Syrian Arab Republic was signed at a meeting held in Damascus tonight. The Saudi delegation to the meeting was headed by the Saudi foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; while the Syrian delegation was presided over by the Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed his pleasure at the realization of this step. He said: "I wish first to praise this major step we have achieved; namely, the formation of a bilateral committee between the two fraternal countries on which we pin great hopes in various fields."

Speaking after the meeting, Prince Sa'ud said: "We feel that in the darkest hours through which our Arab nation is passing, relations grow closer between the two Arab countries." He also thanked all those who helped in realizing this objective.

Asked about the developments of the war, the Saudi foreign minister said: "The war has been continuing since 2 August, that is, since the Iraqi regime's invasion of Kuwait." He spoke in this regard of the great efforts that were exerted by many Arab countries to end this sedition, including the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, Syria, Egypt, as well as the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member countries who are anxious to preserve Arab solidarity.

Prince Sa'ud expressed his regret at the obduracy of the Iraqi regime, saying: "All opportunities were exploited, but unfortunately the Iraqi regime declared its war against the Arab nation, and this war is still continuing."

He affirmed that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, led by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, was working with determination for safeguarding the Arab nation's unity and increasing harmony within it.

On his part, the Syrian foreign minister affirmed Syria's adherence to its stance of the war which the Iraqi regime detonated. Replying to a question, he said: "There is no change or alteration in the Syrian position."

Ministers Sign Agreement

NC0602082191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Text] A meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry yesterday between the Syrian side led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Saudi side led by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The meeting was attended by the Syrian assistant foreign minister and a number of heads of Syrian Foreign Ministry departments, and by the Saudi ambassador in Damascus and the Saudi delegation members.

At the end of the meeting, the two foreign ministers signed an agreement to form a joint Syrian-Saudi committee. The following is the text of the agreement:

The Governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, realizing the profound historic ties and the strong fraternal relations between their two countries and peoples; out of their desire to bolster bilateral relations and cooperation in all domains; and wishing to consult on the various regional and international issues, have agreed on the following:

I. A joint bilateral cooperation committee will be established to which the two governments will assign the following tasks:

- A. Consulting and coordinating on issues of concern to the two countries.
- B. Cooperating in the economic, commercial, cultural, scientific, and information fields.
- C. Following up the implementation of agreements, treaties, and cooperation programs signed by the two countries.

II. The joint committee will be chaired by the two foreign ministers and will have as members the finance and economy ministers of the two countries. Taking part in committee meetings will be the ministers concerned with issues of cooperation that the committee will discuss in each meeting.

III. A. The committee will convene once every six months, alternately in one of the two capitals. The first session will be held in Damascus on 19 February. Extraordinary meetings can be held as necessary.

B. The two sides will agree through diplomatic channels on the date of holding each session.

IV. A. The joint committee will establish a preparatory committee which will prepare for the joint committee meeting and draft the agenda. The preparatory committee will meet one month before the joint committee meeting.

B. Two senior officials from the two countries' foreign ministries will head the two sides in the preparatory committee, which will also include as members representatives from the various ministries, particularly the following:

1. The Finance and National Economic Ministry.
2. Ministry of Trade.
3. Ministry of Industry and Electricity.

4. Ministry of Information.

5. Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources.

6. Ministry of Planning.

7. Ministry of Education.

8. Ministry of International Cooperation.

9. Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication.

C. The committee will hold the preparatory meetings alternately in one of the two capitals. The venue of this meeting will be the capital that is not the venue of the joint committee meeting. The first preparatory meeting will be held on 16 February 1991.

V. This agreement will be valid as of the date of exchanging the diplomatic memorandums that are ratified in accordance with the two countries' regulations.

Following the signing ceremony, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal made a statement to reporters. He said: On this occasion and during my visit to this country, sisterly Syria, which is very dear to us and to the entire Arab nation, and my meeting with brother Faruq al-Shar', I would like to hail the great step we have reached together, namely, establishing this important framework for bilateral cooperation. We hope that this committee will accomplish a great deal in terms of increasing bonds between the two countries and peoples in various fields. Even in the darkest days, we find a ray of hope that closeness among the Arab states will increase.

We hope that this will be a brick in the edifice of the new Arab structure after the current ordeal, which has long been troubling the Arab nation. I would like to voice my happiness and appreciation for the two countries' efforts to reach this result, which will have its effects on bilateral relations.

Asked about the Gulf war developments, al-Faysal said: The war has been going on since 2 August, when the Iraqi regime invaded Kuwait. Since then, the Arab states have been making efforts, especially Syria, and Saudi Arabia, and others such as Egypt, the Gulf states, and other states that care about amity among the Arab states, and used all the opportunity to convince the Iraqi regime of the need to stop this major adventure that threatens the existence of the entire Arab nation. However, and regrettably, this regime's war against the Arab nation is continuing, and its attempts to dismember the Arab nation are continuing. We have no doubt that if we stand firmly against it, this aggression will fail and the Arab nation will restore its solidarity, unity, and civilized march, by having its forces withdraw from Kuwait as a first step, and by increasing amity and cooperation among the Arab states in order to stabilize the Arab order which we are looking forward to.

Asked if there was any change or variation in the Syrian position, al-Shar' said: No change, no variation.

The Saudi foreign minister left Damascus last night after a brief visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the heads of the Arab Homeland and Protocol

Departments at the Foreign Ministry, and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

Cabinet Reviews Gulf, Domestic Situations

*NC0502140291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 5 Feb 91*

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi chaired a Cabinet meeting at 1100 this morning. In a general political review during the meeting, al-Zu'bi explained the latest political and military developments dealing with the Gulf crisis.

During the meeting, the Cabinet stressed that the Iraqi regime's intransigence and stubbornness in defiance of any logic or sense of responsibility, and its noncompliance with the Arab and international requests to pull out of Kuwait will increasingly lead to worsening the painful tragedy suffered by the fraternal Iraqi people and destroying its economic and military potentials.

The Cabinet emphasized that the Iraqi regime's continued intransigence and its disregard for the national and pan-Arab values will, in addition to causing a disaster for the fraternal Iraqi people, lead to major political, economic, and military gains for Israel.

The Cabinet stressed that the responsible pan-Arab approach toward the Gulf crisis pursued by Syria, under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, is one that reflects the supreme interests of the Arab world, out of concern for Iraq, the Iraqi people, and territories.

In reviewing the various circumstances in the region, the Cabinet underscored the need for alertness to and caution about attempts by Israel and some international quarters to take advantage of the crisis caused by Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, so that the threats against the region as well as the Arab nation might be averted.

Turning to the economic situation in Syria, al-Zu'bi pointed out the goals of some of the economic decisions and measures made by the government. The Cabinet underlined the positive results of these measures, which led to developing the public sector establishments with a view to increasing their productivity and exports as well as to expanding the scope of the private sector's fields of activity to increase its agricultural and industrial investments.

Emphasis was put on the decisions permitting the exporters to use part of their export revenues to import a number of food and consumer goods in ample quantities, thus increasing the variety of commodities needed by the citizens.

During the meeting, there was a review of the agricultural works, which improved as a result of the rain and snow.

The Cabinet then reviewed a number of the topics on the agenda and adopted the necessary decisions.

Lebanese Plan To Deploy Army in South Praised

*NC0602105891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0545 GMT 6 Feb 91*

[Text] In today's editorial, AL-BA'TH considered dispatching the Lebanese Army to the south to be an affirmation of Lebanese legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH says: Dispatching the Lebanese Army to the southern region is an extremely important step because of its positive effects on Lebanese developments. This step is undoubtedly an integral part of al-Ta'if agreement. It follows a series of steps that the legitimate Lebanese Government has taken in the interest of Lebanon.

Dispatching the Army to the South means that this army, which some people wanted to be in a perpetual state of disintegration, has become an integrated whole and is capable of protecting and defending the homeland. More important, it is implementing UN Resolution No. 425 on liberating the South from the usurping Zionist enemy.

Dispatching the Lebanese Army to the South will completely abort all attempts by those who rely on the enemy of Lebanon and the Arabs—an enemy that is trying to abort the achievements that peace and reconciliation have produced so far. Therefore, everyone must respond positively to this legitimate step to foil forever the Zionist enemy dreams of establishing a foothold in Lebanon.

The paper is of the opinion that this decision will provide every opportunity to enable the legitimate authority to establish its full and absolute power over all Lebanese soil. To achieve this, everyone should set aside all marginal issues and concentrate on more important matters. Then and only then will the march of reconciliation be complete.

Everyone in Lebanon is aware that what has been done so far is a great achievement. When the Army is dispatched to the South, the march of reconciliation and peace will have reached its safe destination. This step will inaugurate the sovereignty that Lebanon has been seeking for many years.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH said that Syria and all sincere souls in the Arab homeland are looking forward to the day when the south will be liberated from the Zionist occupation. The return of the Lebanese Army to the South is the first and correct step to seize the southern region from the Zionist enemy.

Bangladesh

5,000 Marchers Demand Release of Ershad

BK0502155691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1540 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 5 (AFP)—Up to 5,000 people took to the streets here Tuesday in the first major show of support for deposed Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and demanded his immediate release from detention, police said.

Witnesses said the demonstrators, mostly industrial workers from the suburban districts of Tongi and Adamjee Nagar, marched through the downtown streets carrying portraits of Mr. Ershad and shouting slogans for his release.

They also demanded that other detained leaders of the ousted government and ruling Jatiya Party including Vice President Moudud Ahmed, deputy prime minister and party Secretary General Shah Moazzem Hossain and some six other ministers should also be freed.

Organisers claimed more than 15,000 activists took part in the protest which was aimed at showing that the former president and his associates were still popular and their detention was illegal and politically motivated.

After the main rally near the National Press Club, a group of protestors clashed briefly with local anti-Ershad activists in Motijheel District forcing police to use tear-gas, a reporter on the scene said, adding some passing vehicles were stoned and damaged.

Police confirmed the clash, but said they did not have full details yet.

The 61-year-old former president was arrested along with his wife Raushan and detained in a government house in the Gulshan diplomatic district shortly after his December 6 resignation in the face of mass demonstrations against him and his eight-year rule. Police later filed three cases against Mr. Ershad for alleged corruption, abuse of official powers and holding unlicensed firearms.

Tuesday's demonstration came amid press reports a special tribunal would try Mr. Ershad on the arms charges some time next week and that if convicted he might be disqualified from contesting any elections in Bangladesh.

Last month Mr. Ershad filed nomination papers to contest five parliamentary constituencies in his home district of Rangpur in general elections scheduled for February 27.

Most political groups, including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the all party students unity which led the anti-Ershad campaign, have demanded an end to special treatment for Mr. Ershad and his wife and that they be moved to jail as ordinary prisoners as corruption charges have been filed against them.

Poll Says No Party To Win by Comfortable Margin

BK0502065091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0641 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 5 (AFP)—No single party is likely to win a "comfortable margin" to form a government in Bangladesh's February 27 parliamentary elections, according to an independent opinion poll published here Tuesday.

The poll, undertaken by the prestigious Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), indicated that the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party would win together 217 seats of the total 300 up for grabs.

The rest would be divided among the rightist Jamaat-e-Islami Party and other smaller groups, it said, adding that the Jatiya Party of ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad would get 16 seats.

Some 7,000 enlisted voters were interviewed for the poll, BIDS said.

More than 100 parties are contesting the elections, according to the election commission.

Khaleda Zia Announces Election Manifesto

BK0402113191 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH
OBSERVER in English 29 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] chief Begum Khaleda Zia on Monday [28 January] announced her party's election manifesto with a pledge for establishment of an "Honest government". If voted to power her party would ensure basic needs of the people on the basis of 19-point programme initiated by Shaheed [Martyr] President Ziaur Rahman, she added.

Announcing the party's manifesto at a crowded press conference at the Banani office of the party on the day, The BNP chief said her party would weed out corruption that plagued the administration during the past nine years.

If voted to power, BNP would exempt loan up to Taka 5,000 to poor farmers and give top priority to agriculture sector to achieve self-reliance in food, she said. Begum Zia further said that her party would promote free-economy and foreign investment aiming at creation of employment opportunity. The basic needs which her party would strive to ensure are: food clothing, shelter, education and health.

It may be recalled here that the the BNP's election manifesto was based on the 19-point programme of Ziaur Rahman in 1980.

BNP secretary General A. Salam Talukder and former Finance Minister Mr. Saifur Rahman were among others who were assisting Begum Zia to reply to questions of newsmen.

Narrating the salient features of the manifesto, the BNP Chief said her party would work towards implementation of the four fundamental principles of the constitution which are: absolute trust and faith in Almighty Allah, democracy, nationalism and social and economic justice.

She further said that her party would ensure independence of Judiciary, rule of law, multi-party democracy and protection of the country's independence and territorial sovereignty.

Turning to the foreign policy, Begum Zia said her party would follow a non-aligned foreign policy on the basis of friendship to all countries particularly with Muslim countries and neighbours.

Every citizen irrespective of caste and creed, will be extended equal political, social and economic rights based on Bangladeshi nationalism, she asserted. Begum Zia said if her party was voted to power, it would repeal all black laws including Special Powers Act and Printing and Publications Act so that Press could enjoy freedom.

Her party favours a strong and well disciplined army for the protection of the country's independence and sovereignty, she said. It would revive the "Gram Sarker" [rural official] for village based development, she said.

BNP would initiate various programmes for the rehabilitation of the northern districts, Chittagong Hill Tracts, she said. BNP would undertake rehabilitation and welfare oriented programmes for families of freedom fighters and those who embraced martyrdom under Ershad government, she said.

BNP would take steps for eradication of illiteracy in the light of mass-literacy programme which had been initiated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, she said. She said her party would introduce a pragmatic education policy and revive the canal digging programme to reduce severity of floods and increase agricultural production.

Turning to economic policy she said her party would restore discipline in corporations and financial institutions to make them profitable. Her party was not opposed to the Upazila [subdistrict] system but it would curb their functions so that those could operate efficiently, she said.

The women would be integrated in various development programmes so that they could contribute to the economic development of the country, she said. The NGOs [Non-Governmental Organizations] would also be integrated in national development after necessary evaluation of their performance, she said.

Armed Forces To Maintain Peaceful Elections

*BK0402043491 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Feb 91*

[Text] Elaborate arrangements have been made for deployment of armed forces and BDR [Bangladesh Rifles] to maintain peace and discipline during the

elections. The decision in this regard was taken at a meeting in Dhaka today. Acting President Shabuddin Ahmed was in the chair. The meeting decided to deploy members of the armed forces and the BDR for assisting the civil authorities in the maintenance of law and order and holding the coming polls peacefully. Security forces comprising armed forces, police and armed (?guards) of BDR along with provincial armed force will be engaged in each of the country's 24,200 polling centers. Additional mobile units of the armed forces of the BDR will be deployed at (?convenient) points of each of the 460 upazilas [subdistricts] under a first class magistrate. Each mobile unit will intervene whenever any untoward situation beyond the control of the normal security units arises. The government has already instructed deputy commissioners to organize volunteers in each unit and union and paura sabha [municipality] for preventing disorders in the polls. It has also given special responsibility to union parishad [council] and paura sabha for preventing any activities which may hamper holding of peaceful elections.

According to an ordinance promulgated by the acting president, union parishad and paura sabhas which will fail to discharge their responsibility in this regard will be liable for dissolution. Repolling will be held immediately in any polling center, if disturbances hamper normal voting.

India

Security Steps Taken for Tamil Nadu Strike

*BK0502163091 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Feb 91*

[Text] The Tamil Nadu government has made elaborate security arrangements to maintain law and order in view of the call for Bharat bundh [strike all over India] tomorrow. The call for the bundh has been given by the National Front and the left parties in protest against the dismissal of the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] ministry in the state. The adviser to the governor, Mr. V. Kartikeyan, said in Madras today that 12 companies of paramilitary forces have also been deployed to maintain law and order. The state government has decided to keep its offices open. However, the State Road Transport buses have been withdrawn from this evening till Thursday morning and all educational institutions will remain closed tomorrow. The Southern Railway has canceled 11 express trains originating from Madras tomorrow and suspended suburban train services in Madras city. The departure time of some of the trains leaving Kerala has also been advanced. Indian Airlines and Air India have also announced the rescheduling of their flights from Madras tomorrow in view of the bundh.

Several other states have also made elaborate security arrangements. The West Bengal government will keep its offices open tomorrow, while in the Union Territory of Pondicherry all the educational institutions will remain closed. In Kerala, the state government buses will not ply tomorrow. The Assam government has also decided to

keep its offices open tomorrow, but has asked the district authorities to keep a strict watch on the situation.

Strike Protests Tamil Nadu Dismissal

BK0602091391 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0830 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Text] The Bharat bundh [All-India strike] called by the National Front and the left parties is near total in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Pondicherry, and Bihar, while it has evoked no response in Rajasthan, Orissa, and Karnataka. The bundh has been called in protest against the dismissal of the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] ministry in Tamil Nadu.

In Tamil Nadu, the bundh is near total. Our Madras correspondent, who went round the city in suburban areas, reports that most of the shops are closed. The running of trains to and from Madras to the southern parts of the state in the meter-gauge section has been disrupted due to the derailment of a goods train near a station, 80 km from the city. Out of 28 wagons carrying paddy, 26 have been capsized. Ten trains with a total of nearly 2,600 passengers are stranded. The authorities suspected sabotage from the first account available.

In West Bengal, the 12-hour bundh called by the ruling left front began from 0600 this morning. In the industrial sector, the strike is, however, being observed for 24 hours. In Calcutta, public transport is off the road. Shops and markets are closed. The train services in Eastern Railways are affected. According to an official source, no untoward incident has been reported so far.

In Pondicherry, shops and business establishments are closed. Buses and autorickshas are not plying. The government has declared a holiday today for educational institutions. However, government offices are functioning normally. The textile mills are working with a reduced strength. About 200 persons have been arrested as a precautionary measure.

In Bihar also, the bundh is near total in Patna. The state government has, however, made elaborate arrangements to prevent any untoward incident during the bundh. The bundh has evoked no response in Orissa, Rajasthan, and Karnataka.

Shekhar on Gulf Policy, U.S. Refueling Rights

BK0502131691 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
1230 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] The prime minister has again made it clear that India will not take any side in the current conflict in the Gulf. Addressing a news conference in Allahabad today, he said the government will make efforts to bring an end to the Gulf crisis. Mr. Chandra Shekhar asserted that no American fighter planes have been allowed refueling facility in the country. However, these facilities are being allowed to noncombat aircraft on humanitarian grounds. He said there is no need for any treaty to allow such

facilities. However, whether this facility should continue, will be taken up with the people and political parties for their consideration.

The prime minister reiterated the government's willingness to talk to militants to solve the Punjab problem. He said the government did not succeed in solving the problem through other means during the last seven to eight years.

Earlier, addressing a large gathering, the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, said that the country can overcome serious problems like poverty and unemployment only with the cooperation and will of the youth. He urged the people to sink all differences and work for the development of the nation. He regretted that despite 43 years of independence, a large percentage of population continues to remain poor and illiterate. He said if the nation is to march ahead, the poor will have to be given their due share in the development.

Congress-I Protests Against Gulf War

BK0602114591 *Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English* 1600 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] Workers and MP's [members of Parliament] of the Congress-I today staged a sit-in near the prime minister's official residence to protest against the government's decision to allow the refueling of the U.S. Air Force aircraft. The agitators also demanded that the government mobilize nonaligned countries to work toward an immediate cease-fire in the Gulf war and withdrawal of all Western forces from the region.

In a memorandum to the prime minister, the parliamentarians said that the Kuwait issue should be resolved by the Arab world and the Nonaligned Movement without the intervention of the Western countries. Stating that the U.S. wanted to dominate the oil economy of the Gulf countries, the memorandum said the U.S. is fighting this war on behalf of the Israeli Government. The government by allowing the refueling of U.S. aircraft has done great disservice to the people of India. The memorandum added we should never have become an ally of the U.S. in its unjustified war against a friendly country.

Devi Lal Denies Reported Differences With Premier

BK0502131891 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
1230 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] The deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, has welcomed the idea of a national government put forward by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee. In an interview to PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA], Mr. Devi Lal said that this would go a long way in giving the nation much-needed political stability.

About his reported differences with the prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal said that he has perfect understanding with both Mr. Chandra Shekhar and with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. Mr. Devi Lal also called for realignment of secular and centrist forces to clear the political uncertainty.

Anti-War Rally Held in Front of U.S. Embassy*BK0502131491 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 5 Feb 91*

[Text] Janata Dal, CPI, CPI-M, RSP [Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India-Marxist, Revolutionary Socialist Party], Forward Bloc, and Congress-S workers held a demonstration in front of the American Embassy in New Delhi today. They were demanding the end to the Gulf war and settlement of the dispute through negotiations. Addressing them, leaders of these parties alleged that the United States is unleashing repression on Iraq under the pretext of liberating Kuwait. Speakers included Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, Mr. M. Farooqi, Mr. Chitta Basu, Mr. Tridiv Chowdhury, Dr. I.P. Singh, and Mr. Tarif Singh. Later, the leaders courted arrest.

23 Kashmiri 'Subversives' Arrested*BK0502163491 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Feb 91*

[Text] In Kashmir Valley, security forces arrested 23 subversives during the past 24 hours. Two militants, including a so-called deputy area commander of a banned militant outlet surrendered with two AK-47 rifle and other ammunition. In Mirza Kamal Chowk and Rainawari areas, the militants fired rockets on the pickets of security forces. In Baramula District, four security persons were injured when the subversives ambushed a vehicle.

Kashmiri Leader Says U.S. Can Help Situation*BK0602133691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1226 GMT
6 Feb 91*

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 6 (AFP)—A top Kashmiri leader suggested Wednesday that the United States could help bring peace to Kashmir and urged India and Pakistan to bury the hatchet and accept a temporary cease-fire line as a permanent border.

Former Jammu and Kashmir State Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah told a news conference here that India should use the "good offices" of Washington to bring pressure on Pakistan to stop helping Moslem separatists on the Indian side of the Kashmir border.

"The Americans have a great influence on Pakistan," he said. "The American good offices can be used to tell the other side (Pakistan) that 'for god's sake, enough is enough. People have suffered enough.'"

Mr. Abdullah referred to Islamabad's alleged military support to Moslem guerrillas campaigning for secession in Jammu and Kashmir state, India's only Moslem-majority state.

Pakistan, which disputes Kashmir's 1947 accession to India and holds the northern third of the region, denies the charge, and says it gives only diplomatic support to Kashmiri Moslems fighting for self-determination.

Mr. Abdullah, who has been chief minister of Kashmir twice, said the only way to restore peace there was for India and Pakistan to stop quarrelling over the state that has caused two wars between them in the past 40 years.

He said this might be possible if Pakistan continued to keep the northern third of Kashmir which it now occupies and leave the Indian part of Kashmir with India.

"There can be no other solution," said Mr. Abdullah, who heads Kashmir's Moslem National Conference Party. He added that the present cease-fire line between India and Pakistan in Kashmir should be made a permanent border, save for minor changes.

"Why can't India and Pakistan live together?" asked Mr. Abdullah, who is violently opposed to the bloody Kashmir separatist struggle. "The time has come for them to bury the hatchet. America can play a major role (in this)."

Mr. Abdullah accuses both Indian security and Moslem militants in Kashmir of indulging in "excesses" and said the militant campaign in his state amounted to an undeclared war by Pakistan against India.

He also rejected claims that his party was redundant in Kashmir, saying he could prove the public support his party enjoyed if only fear of the gun was removed in the state.

More than 2,000 people have died in the past two years in the Kashmir separatist campaign. Moslem groups accuse Indian security forces of committing widespread atrocities. The allegations are denied by New Delhi.

19 Killed in Separate Punjab Incidents*BK0502164491 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Feb 91*

[Text] In Punjab, 19 persons including 10 security men and four militants were killed in separate incidents in the past 24 hours. In Amritsar District, a large portion of the railway track on the Jullundur-Amritsar section was damaged in a powerful bomb blast late last night.

Spokesman Says Dalai Lama Policy 'Not Changed'*BK0502162291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1600 GMT
5 Feb 91*

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 5 (AFP)—New Delhi's position towards the Dalai Lama has not changed, but he is not expected to engage in political activity while in India, a government spokesman said here Tuesday.

The spokesman was commenting on a Chinese XINHUA news agency report this week stating that Indian Foreign Minister Vidya Charan Shukla had assured China that New Delhi would "prohibit" the Tibetan spiritual leader from political activities.

The Dalai Lama and some 100,000 Tibetan refugees have been living in India, headquarters of the Tibetan

government in exile, since an abortive Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule was crushed in 1959.

"Our understanding is that the Dalai Lama is not expected to engage in any political activity while he is in India," the spokesman told journalists here, adding that New Delhi had "always recognised Tibet as an autonomous region of China."

But he reiterated that there had been "no change" in New Delhi's position on the Tibetan spiritual leader whom he described as respected in India—where he had been given asylum—and throughout the world as a religious leader of great eminence.

There were also old cultural ties between India and Tibet, he said.

Indian newspapers have quoted Sino-Indian analysts here as interpreting the Chinese media statements as using Mr. Shukla's visit to score propaganda mileage.

Several of the newspapers have pointed out that Indian Embassy spokesmen in China have refused to confirm or deny the Chinese press reports, and that Mr. Shukla did not mention Tibet in his briefings to Indian journalists.

The Dalai Lama's office here has issued no statement on the issue.

Iran

USSR's Belonogov Arrives For Gulf Talks

LD0602082891 Tehran IRNA in English 0608 GMT
6 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov arrived here Wednesday morning and was greeted at Mehrabad international airport by his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Vaezi.

Belonogov is here to discuss the Persian Gulf crisis with the Iranian authorities.

Moscow has welcomed President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's peace initiatives to end the Persian Gulf war.

Meets Velayati

NC0602110491 Paris AFP in English 1001 GMT
6 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb 6 (AFP)—Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov met here Wednesday with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to discuss an Iranian peace initiative to end the Persian Gulf war, foreign ministry officials said.

The proposal, announced Monday by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, is based on an undisclosed "idea" and "recommendations" to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. It has been welcomed by Moscow as "very positive."

Mr. Belonogov before leaving Moscow told TASS news agency that to date "all peace initiatives, unhappily, have come up against the hardliners in Baghdad."

He said any initiative "should contain as an integral element a proposal for the future of Kuwait," which Iraq has occupied since August 2.

Both Iran, which has proclaimed itself neutral in the conflict, and the Soviet Union have denounced the Iraqi invasion and have demanded an immediate withdrawal.

Tehran is awaiting President Husayn's response to the peace recommendations and continues to be at the center of discussions on ways to end the conflict pitting Iraq against a U.S.-led coalition.

Turkish President Turgut Ozal telephoned Mr. Rafsanjani on Tuesday and was briefed on the Iranian leader's plan. The Turkish foreign minister, Kurtcebe Alptemecin, is to arrive here Wednesday afternoon for talks with senior officials.

In another development, the English-language daily Tehran Times, which is close to the government, said the leader of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (ISF), Shaykh Abbas Madani, would arrive Wednesday in Iran.

The paper, citing informed sources, said the pro-Iraqi ISF leader would hold talks with Iranian officials on events in the region.

Velayati Meets With Algerian FIS Leader

LD0502182491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] Abbas Madani, leader of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], met with Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati this evening. During the meeting Mr. Madani said: The beacon which Imam Khomeyni, may almighty God approve of him, set alight has illuminated the hearts of all Muslims and the Islamic revolution shall be the liberator of all the Islamic umma and humanity.

Referring to the extensive presence of foreign forces in the region and the U.S. expansionist plans for dominating the region, and also praising the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand with regard to the war, said: We want to cooperate with you on the war in order to end this devastating war and stand by your side in a single front.

Mr. Velayati, referring to the growth of Islamic tendencies in Algeria and North Africa, said: We hope that such developments will become the source of more prosperity and grace for the Islamic ummah. Elaborating on Iran's stand concerning the Persian Gulf war, he said: We are neutral in this war but not indifferent. And while we endeavor extensively to end this devastating war, we have sent food and medical relief to Iraq in cooperation with the International Red Cross.

Ahmad Khomeyni on Need To Stop Gulf War*LD0502113591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 5 Feb 91*

[Text] The foreign guests taking part in the 10 Days of Dawn celebrations for the Islamic revolution, a group of the sister students from Tehran, along with various strata of the people, this morning met with Hojjat ol-Eslam-e-val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni in the Jamaran Hoseyniyeh. In this meeting, first the deputy minister of Islamic culture and guidance for international affairs, Mr. Abtahi, submitted a report on the way the foreign guests became familiar with the achievements of the Iranian Islamic revolution. Then Ahmad Khomeyni, referring to the objectives of the Islamic revolution of the people of Iran, stressed the need to establish ties between Islamic nations and to uphold the solidarity of the Islamic ummah. He said: Today Islamic Iran, as the focal point of the Islamic revolution, is considered a strong support for the Islamic and revolutionary movements of the tyrannized people of the world. The Islamic revolution of Iran is the best model and guide for the Muslims in the struggle against the puppet regimes of the United States and world arrogance. The main aim of the oppressed Muslims should be the establishment of Islamic regimes, and for its manifestation the Muslims need to make use of all existing resources.

In another part of his speech, he described the Persian Gulf war as harmful for the regional Muslims and, addressing the foreign guests participating in the 10 Days of Dawn celebrations, he said: You dear guests have come to Iran at a time when the criminal United States is engaged in killing Muslims. Nevertheless, the Muslims, just like before, will confront the United States and will not allow the arrogant schemes for plundering the economic resources of the Muslims to be put into practice. The United States and her allies are attacking the residences of the defenseless people of Iraq with all types of bombs and missiles. We are deeply worried about the future of the regional Muslims, and with all our might will endeavor to stop the war. If Saddam and the Ba'ath party have made a mistake, why should the Muslim people of Iraq pay for it?

Ahmad Khomeyni finally added: The Persian Gulf war once again pushed aside the mask of deception from the face of arrogance and showed that all the Western propaganda about human rights, humanitarianism, and freedom are nothing but lies. Today all the Muslims of the world must announce their solidarity with the people of Iraq and we are determined to help them as far as we can.

Ahmad Khomeyni Receives Jordanian Muslim Leader*LD0602111391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 6 Feb 91*

[Text] The leader of Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood and his accompanying delegation met Hojjat ol-Eslam-e-val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni last night.

They talked about the crisis in the Persian Gulf region and the situation of Jordan's Muslims.

According to the Central News Unit, in the meeting, 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, the leader of Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood, described the threats of the Zionist regime against his country. Hojjat ol-Eslam-e-val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni then described the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran vis-a-vis the war in the Persian Gulf region and said: Under the leadership of his eminence Ayatollah Khomeini, just as during the life of his eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, we support the aspirations of Muslims throughout the globe. We have always supported those who have stood up to world Zionism and will continue to do so.

Karrubi Affirms Support For Jordan Against Israel*LD0502140391 Tehran IRNA in English 1257 GMT
5 Feb 91*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—Majles speaker Mahdi Karrubi said on Tuesday that the Islamic Republic of Iran would not tolerate an Israeli aggression against Jordan.

In a meeting with leader of Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah and a group of Palestinian figures here, Karrubi described any threat by the Zionist enemy against Jordan or any other Islamic state as a threat against all Muslims.

"Israel should learn a lesson from what it has faced in Lebanon or is facing in occupied Palestine," the speaker remarked.

The two sides also discussed the key problems of the Muslim world and the Persian Gulf crisis.

Khomeini Orders Aid for Flood-Stricken Province*LD0502180491 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT
5 FEB 91*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khomeini on Tuesday ordered the allocation of Rials 2 billion towards infrastructural and long-term projects in the flood-stricken Province of Sistan-Baluchestan, southeast Iran.

The catastrophic floods last week inundated villages and acres upon acres of farmland around Zabol near the Afghanistan border, sweeping away the traditional mud brick houses and rendering 50,000 people homeless.

Vice President for Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh disclosed today that 10,000 families and 160 villages were affected by the floods.

According to Mirzadeh, the devastating floods caused by the swelling of the Hirmand river had no precedent in the past 500 years.

Until noon today, 5,000 of the flood-stricken people were lodged in safe places, while relief aid donated by the people continues to pour into the region by air and by land.

Besides the army aviation service helicopters, several teams of naval frogmen and marines along with 80 speed boats are busy rescuing people and salvaging their properties.

Turkey's Alptemecin to Arrive 6 Feb for Talks

LD0502142591 Tehran IRNA in English 1319 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Ankara, Feb. 5, IRNA—Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemecin will arrive here [as received] Wednesday to discuss latest developments in the Persian Gulf war with Iranian officials.

Alptemecin is to visit Egypt and Syria after his talks in Iran.

Earlier today Iranian and Turkish presidents reviewed latest developments in the war in a telephone conversation, in which President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani expressed Iran's deep concern over the bombardment of the Iraqi cities by the U.S.-led forces.

***President Discloses Saddam Letter on Border**

91P40127A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 28 Jan 91 pp 1,4

[Report by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT political editor—all quotation marks as published]

[Text] London—Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has disclosed the contents of a letter which he received from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. This is a letter which expresses clearly the truth of the Iraqi president's widespread schemes, not only in Kuwait but also in the lands of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf region.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Saddam, in an attempt to neutralize Iran concerning his aggression against Kuwait, spoke in a letter of extending the land border between Iraq and Iran for more than 1,000 km, in addition to the 800 km of coastline.

It is well known that the old shoreline of Iraq extended for only 120 km along the strategic Shatt al-Arab. However, Saddam Husayn is speaking of a coast and shore extending for 800 km, which discloses the reality of the Iraqi president's other wide-ranging schemes.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked the well-known Iranian writer Amir Taheri his interpretation of the Iraqi president's words. He explained that demarcating the border for this distance means that Saddam Husayn is extending the coastline to the Kuwaiti islands that he controls in addition to the Kuwaiti coast itself and the neutral region between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

He went on to say that Saddam Husayn imagines that he is speaking with the Iranians in the name of all of the

peoples of the Arab Gulf and that Saddam does not even recognize the existence of Saudi Arabia.

Taheri indicated that the words of Saddam Husayn to Hashemi-Rafsanjani mean that he (i.e., the Iraqi president) wants the "Persian" Gulf (in the Iranian perception) to be Iraqi, and that Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked him, "On what basis do you expect Iran to help you swallow up Kuwait and invade the entire western coast?"

Hashemi-Rafsanjani went on to say, "Iraq wants to turn the 'Persian' Gulf into an Iraqi gulf, and we will not permit that. This means that Iraq wants to found an Iraqi empire."

Taheri stated that the Iraqi president offered to divide the entire Gulf with Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Taheri turned to the Gulf continental shelf. [He said] it is known that the depth of the water in the Gulf at no point exceeds 90 meters, which makes the entire Gulf tantamount to the territorial waters of its littoral states. Iran has signed Gulf continental shelf agreements with all of the countries of the Gulf with the exception of Iraq and Kuwait, because Iraq has considered Kuwait to be its territory and has refused to make an agreement, either with Kuwait itself or with Tehran, on demarcating the continental shelf in its area of concern.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that border lines to President Saddam are reflections of Iraqi desires. The Iranian president is neutral in the war as a frank response to those who think that Saddam Husayn engaged in it only to recover Iraq's so-called historical rights, while the Iraqi ruler actually aspires to occupy the Gulf as a whole, including the eastern province of Saudi Arabia, according to the letter documented by the Iranian side.

After this leaked secret, is there anyone who believes that the Iraqi president has no desires of his own, and that his goal is the liberation of Palestine and the recovery of Arab rights? The recovery of Arab rights does not mean simply occupying one entire area by force, and offering the rest to a non-Arab state, because demarcating these borders means simply giving up Arab land in the Gulf like Qatar and withdrawing from the Emirates and some of Oman.

All of the excuses that have been offered for Saddam Husayn, or the voices of denunciation which arise here and there, will be reconsidered in light of knowledge of this dangerous letter, which thinks of the Gulf as a mere plantation for the Iraqi president's desires. The countries of the Gulf have not stood before these desires with their arms crossed, but have used their right of self-defense, defense of their destiny and of their pan-Arab and national interests.

Four More Iraqi Aircraft Land in Republic

LD0502162591 Tehran IRIB Television Network
in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] Four Iraqi planes which entered Iranian airspace under emergency conditions in two waves landed at one

of our country's airports. According to the report of the Central News Unit, an informed military source confirmed this piece of the news. He announced:

During last night and today, in two waves, four Iraqi military and non-military planes, facing an emergency situation, entered Iranian airspace and landed at one of our country's airports. The same report adds: As the parties involved have repeatedly been informed under the framework of the policy of neutrality of the Islamic Republic of Iran, these aircraft will be impounded until the end of the war in the Persian Gulf region.

Correspondents, Photographers To Visit Iraq

*LD0502155391 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT
5 Feb 91*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—Iranian reporters are to visit Iraq to cover the U.S.-led war against that country.

The Iraqi Embassy in Tehran has agreed to issue visas for the 24 reporters and photographers from the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), the Islamic Republic of Iran's Broadcasting (IRIB) and some newspapers.

The Iranian journalists will enter Iraq via the western Khosravi border post.

Paper Sees Attitudes Toward Iraq Changing

*LD0502194391 Tehran IRNA in English 1851 GMT
5 Feb 91*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—The Persian daily RESALAT said Tuesday that because of the current developments in the region the regional states seem likely to review their positions towards the war with Iraq. It said in the future Iran will be the best center for warding off wars and conflicts.

The western forces are now apparently convinced that the Iraqi army may not be defeated solely by air raids, though they do not yet seem to have adopted any definite tactic for the deployment of their ground forces, it said.

In the wake of Iraq's ground attack against the city of Khafji in Saudi Arabia, the daily's commentary said, the latter's forces seem to have been disarrayed: troops with different nationalities, which are neither deployed for an offensive, nor firmly stationed on solid defensive positions. Under the circumstances Iraq's sporadic attacks may inflict considerable casualties on the other side.

It continued: "Western sources concede that in the course of the heavy pounding of the positions of the Iraqis only ten per cent of the armoured capacity and artillery of the Iraqis was destroyed, with the thousands of remaining long-range guns and T-72 tanks tanks of Iraq to play a determining role in a forthcoming ground battle."

Iraq is likely to take the risk of launching a big ground attack, and do so for the purpose of occupying towns and

cities and the hind quarters of the allied forces, since urban quarters are good hedges for reducing aerial attacks, the daily thought.

On the other hand, it said, the western forces continue their attacks from far-off points with the idea of deranging [as received] things in Iraq. "The current blind aerial and missile attacks on Iraqi towns and cities are a desperate bid for breaking Iraq's resistance and shattering its psycho-military capacity without bothering for the high civilian casualties," it added.

"The result could prove catastrophic for the U.S. and its accomplices," said RESALAT, noting that many of the countries of the region will "undergo a period of political transformation with hatred towards the United States and Israel and—to a lesser degree—against Britain and France gradually mounting."

In Jordan, it pointed out "half of the country's Palestinian population, together with the Muslim brotherhood is on the way of becoming ready to fight the illegal state of Israel."

King Husayn, it said "in a bid to save his throne, has opted—under compulsions—to adopt an ultra-anti-western position, although his dual approach to the problems at hand does not seem to hold out for long, and if he should opt to stand against the belligerency of the Jordanians, he will fall from power."

As for Turkey, continued the commentary "Turgut Ozal has entered into the war upon pressure by the United States, although he is likely to back off under the pressure of the public opinion in his country..."

It said that in Pakistan and Egypt there are similar situations. "Certain Pakistani military officers have expressly questioned the wisdom of the policies the government has adopted toward the conflict."

The political standing of even the Soviet Union is questioned by the Soviet military officers, noted RESALAT.

It believed that the procrastination of the war will generate internal pressures against many governments of the region which on the basis of the United States' policies are exploiting their resources against Iraq.

In view of this concluded the daily, "it is likely that in the near future these very same countries hard pressed by their Muslim populations will make an effort to change their position towards the disastrous war Washington is waging against the Iraqi people and resources."

Rafsanjani Peace Package Contents Detailed

*OW0602055091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0519 GMT
6 Feb 91*

[Text] Paris, Feb. 6 KYODO—The success of a peace proposal Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has sent to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn

depends on Iraq showing its intention to withdraw from Kuwait, a Kuwaiti source here said Tuesday.

But the source said it is unlikely Iraq will accept the Iranian proposal.

"(Iraq) will not allow Iran to take a leading position in the Gulf region," the source said.

Rafsanjani gave a message, containing what he described later as "an idea" addressed to Husayn, to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi during Hammadi's visit to Iran last week. Hammadi had talks with Rafsanjani and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The Kuwaiti source said the Rafsanjani proposal contains seven points.

The first is a requirement that Husayn show a positive response to a call from Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Sayed [word as received] 'Ali Khamene'i for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

If such a response is forthcoming, the second is for Khamene'i or Rafsanjani to visit Baghdad to pave the way for high-level talks among Islamic countries, including Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Algeria, Jordan, Sudan, and Yemen. Iran would also issue a call for peace to countries supplying troops to the U.S.-led multinational forces arrayed against Iraq.

The third point calls on Iran to persuade the United States and other Western countries to withdraw their forces from the Persian Gulf at the same time as Iraq quits Kuwait, according to the source. An all-Islamic force would then be deployed.

The source said the fourth part of the proposal calls for a conference on the Iraq-Kuwait dispute, involving affected nations, including the Gulf states and Islamic nations.

The fifth calls for the establishment of an Islamic fund for the restoration of areas damaged in the war.

The sixth calls for a nonaggression pact to be signed by Iran, Iraq, the six member-nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council, plus Turkey and Pakistan.

The source said the seventh and final point calls for the participation of all countries in the region in a protocol covering political and economic cooperation and security guarantees modeled on the European Community.

Commentary Links U.S. Aims, War's 'New Phase'

LD0502175391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1107 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The issue of why the Persian Gulf war has not come to a rapid and decisive conclusion and may continue for weeks or even months is a question which the world's political/military circles are trying to answer. U.S. President Bush promised the heads of the region's

countries and his allies that, in view of the precise U.S. plan and the number of troops mobilized in the region, the war would be very short. U.S. air commanders promised Bush that, using the so-called surgical strike strategy, they would bring Iraq to its knees in three to ten days and that they would bring the war to a decisive point. [passage omitted]

Political analysts believe the U.S. has, if not to say failed at, at least not achieved its predetermined end. This lack of success by the U.S. is due to the fact that Iraq has resorted to a corresponding military strategy, that is, passive defense. The passive strategy is based on preserving one's own military capabilities and avoiding an all-sided engagement to bring about a war of attrition. [passage omitted]

The relative military failure of the U.S. in achieving its aims in forcing Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and destroying that country's strategic weapons has taken the war into a new phase, the main feature of which, unfortunately, is the extension of the war's antihuman and immoral aspects. [passage omitted]

With its bombardment of all roads in the north and the south of Iraq, the U.S. is revealing its other aim. The U.S. aim, in other words, is not only the disruption of Iraq's military supply routes, but, by breaking the links between Iraq's regions, it aims to destroy the country's economic cycle, which is under pressure as a result of economic sanctions, and to prevent food from reaching the people.

The truth is that, by resorting to savage methods, the U.S. is trying to make up on the ground for the failure of its surgical strike air strategy; that is to say, by weakening logistic capabilities and cutting supply routes to Iraq's military forces based in Kuwait, it is trying to bring about conditions in which it can try its luck on the ground to bring the matter to an end in that way and to maintain its prestige as a superpower.

The expansion of the war's immoral methods may inflict a high cost on Iraq's Muslim people, but the continuation of the war and the expansion of the use of such inhuman methods may also have dangerous consequences for Western leaders. Forbidding the showing of films in the U.S. about Iraq's bombed residential areas and the mass killing of civilians and imposing unprecedented censorship in that country cannot keep the facts hidden forever. In the words of the head of the International Red Cross, the lifting of censorship and the revelation of the facts will shake the world.

Cairo Paper on Iraqi Overtures for Support

PM0502123891 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
2 Feb 91 p 1

[Abd al-Nabiy 'Abd-al-Sattar report: "Iran Pledges to Iraq To Join War The Moment Allies Enter Iraqi Territory"]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is currently holding talks with the Iranian authorities to persuade them to provide urgent military facilities to the Iraqi forces in Iranian territory and airports. Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo confirm that Iraq has recently passed Kuwaiti and American documents to the Tehran rulers. The sources said that these documents claim the existence of a U.S.- Kuwaiti conspiracy to overthrow the ruling regimes in Iraq and Iran, because of their threat to the Gulf states. The sources refer to one particular document which claims that the United States, Israel, and Britain were responsible for the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war for eight years. The documents also claim that the three countries encouraged western arms industries to provide Iraq and Iran with sophisticated weapons. The sources also confirmed the existence of a secret Iraqi-Iranian agreement under which Iran pledged to enter the war on Iraq's side the moment the allied forces enter Iraqi territory. The agreement also includes a clause permitting Iraq to retrieve its aircraft, which are currently impounded at Iranian airports if the allied forces occupied Iraqi territory. The sources pointed out that Iraq has requested Iran's mediation to persuade Pakistan and Turkey to reconsider their positions on the Gulf war and to withdraw Pakistani forces from the region.

Editorial Analyzes Fate of Pro-Iraqi Stance

NC0602065691 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
23 Jan 91 pp 1, 3

[Part three of editorial: "A Glance at the Persian Gulf War: Who Wants To Be a Second Iraq?"]

[Excerpts] A war is occurring before us and in our vicinity. In it, the aggressor belligerent and powerful Baghdad regime, with a record of killing the revolutionary Muslim people of Iran, and even of killing the Muslims of Lebanon, Palestine, Kuwait, and [its own people in] Iraq is on one side. On the other side is an arrogant world-devouring superpower, the United States, with a remarkable record of massacres and pillaging of natural resources all over the world.

Saddam is on the left of the arena, and Bush is on the right of it, the difference being that most of the governments and world powers, as well as the majority of the members of international organizations and associations in various degrees are standing behind Bush. What can be done in such a case? [passage omitted]

The first consideration is that every country which in this particular set of circumstances, and in this particular arena, joins the ranks of Iraq today, will immediately be labeled by the imperialists and their mass media a defender of aggression and a proponent of usurpation of countries whether it likes it or not. Even if the imperialists do not do so, the world public will. Such a country will be branded "a second Iraq" in the minds of the people and by international public opinion.

The arena of reality is not an arena of voices and paper, in which various assumptions and suppositions and groups and factions can easily be distinguished at once from one another. [passage omitted]

In the field of action, however, the reality is that the Iraqi regime is merely fighting for the expansion of its illegitimate interests. The United States is doing the same, with the difference that on the scene of the current war, the American actions as usual have a rotten core but unfortunately have donned an outward mantle of legitimacy. Iraq, however, does not have any legitimacy, internal or external. This is how it appears in comparison.

The Islamic Republic is itself a victim of the Iraqi regime and armed forces' aggression. The Islamic Republic fought on the battlefield for years against Russian and American arrogance and used the same effective weapon. It justified its confrontation with the superpowers by referring to their aggressive nature, which was demonstrated in the occupation of Afghanistan and Lebanon. How can the Islamic Republic now join the ranks of an aggressive and usurper government which entertains thoughts of "becoming a superpower" and occupying all the Islamic and Arab countries?

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Dalai Lama Postpones Trip to Kathmandu

BK0502125091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1220 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 5 (AFP)—The Dalai Lama has indefinitely postponed a planned trip to Nepal at the request of Kathmandu, which cited "external and internal political" pressures, his spokesman said here Tuesday.

The cancellation of the trip proposed for later this month followed strong Chinese Embassy protests to the Nepalese Government charging that the exiled Tibetan leader had "political motives."

The spokesman here said the Dalai Lama had been advised by the Nepalese High Commission (embassy) here on January 22 that "for external and internal political reasons it would be advisable not to accept the invitation for the time being."

"So for now he will not be going," the spokesman said, referring to an invitation extended to the Dalai Lama by the Nepal Buddhists Dharma Seva Sangh last month.

Foreign Ministry sources in Kathmandu had told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that apart from the Chinese pressure, authorities also feared the visit might create communal friction in Hindu-majority Nepal just before the country's elections, scheduled for May.

In a statement released in the Indian capital, the Dalai Lama's office also said it "regretted" an unconfirmed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA report which had said the Dalai Lama had been informed that "as a Chinese citizen" he must get a visa from the Nepalese Embassy in Beijing, not in Delhi.

"His holiness has travelled to many countries over the years without any difficulty despite repeated attempts by the Chinese Government to control his freedom of movement by pressuring host governments to deny him entry," the statement said.

It added that the Dalai Lama had in fact gone to Nepal, like India home to thousands of Tibetan refugees from the abortive 1959 anti-Chinese uprising, on a pilgrimage in 1981.

The statement also "regretted" the Chinese attitude in "deliberately politicizing this (proposed) visit," adding that the "overreaction" only served to show "how sensitive the Chinese are to the Tibetan issue."

Pakistan

Radio Reports Bush-Sharif Telephone Conversation

BK0502142591 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1400 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] President Bush telephoned Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and exchanged views with him on the Gulf situation. The prime minister informed the U.S. President of his latest peace mission to six Middle East countries. President Bush assured the prime minister that the sanctity of sacred places in Iraq will be maintained and that civilian areas will not be targeted.

Sharif Condemns Israeli Bombing of Palestinians

BK0602094891 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Text] The prime minister has condemned Israeli bombardment of Palestinians in Lebanon. Expressing condolence with the families of martyrs, the Prime minister termed the bombing as abominable and savage. He urged the world community to take notice of the brutal aggression against the unarmed Palestinians and to take steps to stop it. As reported earlier, 20 Israeli planes bombarded several Palestinian villages near the southern Lebanese town of Sidon yesterday in which at least seven persons were killed and 25 injured.

Paper Calls Government Peace Mission 'Meaningless'

BK0502162191 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
5 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Meaningless Exercise"]

[Text] This paper has welcomed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's peace initiative. It is the earnest desire of all sensible people in the world and of Muslims in particular that this carnage and genocide in which the death and destruction spitting "Allied" Airforces are indulging to

achieve the sinister design of reducing Iraq to rubble would stop forthwith. But the government's decision to send a number of special peace missions to several Muslim countries, who need no convincing of the need for peace in the Gulf, is a meaningless exercise. As they say, it is like converting the Pope to Christianity. All that was required was that the Prime Minister send personal letters to the Heads of State or government of these countries on his peace mission, seeking their support to an OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] meeting at the earliest, which should have been handed over to the concerned Head of State or government by our Ambassadors. It is besides the point that some of these countries to which these Special Delegations are being sent do not wish to be called "Muslim country" and are not full-fledged members of the OIC.

A peace initiative without an approach to Baghdad and without a dialogue with Saddam is like a Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. If he has been unavailable to us, despite our best efforts, is it because some of his misconceptions about our peace initiatives need to be removed. To reach him is the first and foremost requirement of a peace initiative. It would be equal to several delegations sent elsewhere. Special delegations should be sent to Beijing and Moscow, who alone can influence the US. The entire game of peace or war revolves round Saddam and Bush.

It seems that we are avoiding to tackle the hardcore issues and going for easy success, through soft targets. This means that the exercise is aimed at convincing our own public that the government is doing something about the Gulf situation, or in reality, it is not a peace initiative but the government's exercise in domestic public relationing itself. The amount spent on these delegations would run into huge figures, when all these delegations have gone round the various capitals. Would the Ministry of Foreign Affairs let us know what exactly will be the total expenditure after the visits are over. Can we afford to spend such a huge amount merely to put up a show to our public that we are doing something on the Gulf situation, when really all the expenditure is aimed merely at image building, and not to achieve the real purpose. This is squandering public funds at a time when we are really down and out financially. This is one expenditure that we could have much avoided.

Four Killed in Sunni-Shiite Violence in Jhang

BK0602022491 Hong Kong AFP in English 2018 GMT
5 Feb 91

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 5 (AFP)—At least four people were killed and several wounded as rival Moslem sects clashed in Jhang City, in Pakistan's Punjab Province, forcing the authorities to clamp an indefinite curfew, official sources said.

At least five houses and several shops were set on fire as rampaging crowds fired weapons and looted shops, the officials said, adding that the situation had been brought under control by late Tuesday.

The violence erupted late Monday in Jhang, scene of tension between Shi'ite and Sunni communities since the assassination in January of a Sunni religious leader, Maulana Esarul Qasmi.

Mr. Qasmi, leader of a fundamentalist Sunni religious group, Anjuman Sipah-e-Sahaba (ASS), was also a deputy in the National Assembly.

ASS, which blames Shi'ites for the murder, has been demanding the arrest of top leaders of the minority sect's political party, Tehreek-i-Nifaze Fiqh Jafria (TNFJ).

Officials said the unrest in Jhang began when gunmen riding a motorbike fired indiscriminately on a shop, killing two police constables and injuring some civilians.

In the violence that followed, a mob set fire to five houses and several shops, they said.

Residents said intermittent firing rocked the city Monday night and early Tuesday. The official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) news agency said repeated police intervention failed to check the looting and arson, forcing the authorities to impose an indefinite curfew.

'Unprovoked' Indian Artillery Reported in Kashmir

*BK0602092891 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 6 Feb 91*

[Text] Unprovoked artillery fire was shot from the Indian side at Shakkot and (Athmoqam) regions in the Neelum Valley [in Kashmir] on Monday [4 February] and Tuesday. According to a press release of the interservices public relations, the firing began during the first quarter of the night and continued intermittently till morning. Civilian properties were generally targeted, one person was killed and seven others were injured. Defense sources say that the incidents of Indian firing on civilians are increasing. Pakistani troops are staying alert and necessary countermeasures are being taken to protect the citizens' lives and to maintain the territorial integrity.

Sri Lanka

Conditions Imposed on Refueling of Planes Reported

*BK0602111091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0901 GMT
6 Feb 91*

[Text] Colombo, Feb 6 (AFP)—Sri Lanka Wednesday allowed U.S.-led allied forces conditional access to ports here and said it hoped United Nations "dynamism" in liberating Kuwait will be extended to other territories occupied by force.

Foreign Minister Harold Herat was quoted in a government statement released here Wednesday that Colombo will allow only aircraft and naval vessels without nuclear weapons or "lethal material" to enter Sri Lankan ports.

"In accordance with past practice, Sri Lanka will continue to provide the use of ports and airports for purposes of conveying non-lethal material, supply of water, fuel and non-offensive material to aircraft and ships...For humanitarian purposes such as repatriation of refugees, the injured and other emergencies," the statement said.

It said requests by Washington and other members of the coalition against Iraq to use the Colombo port and airport for refueling aircraft and vessels taking part in the Gulf war will be subject to these conditions.

"Our commitment is to the liberation of Kuwait. We hope that the dynamism of the United Nations in respect of Kuwait will be extended to liberate all territories which are now occupied by force," the statement said.

Political observers here saw it as a clear reference to Arab territories occupied by Israel.

Colombo also said it will not allow any foreign military bases to operate in the country and ruled out sending its armed forces to join the coalition forces.